

JOUR COMICS

1

# のんちゃんの 手のひら

金子節子



SETUKO KANEKO PRESENTS

JOUR COMICS



# Non-chan no Tenohira ①

SETUKO KANEKO

金子節子



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**KAZUYA'S MOTHER**

LONGS FOR A GRANDCHILD TO CARRY THE FAMILY NAME. HOPES YUKI WILL HAVE A CHILD SOON.



**YUKI'S MOTHER**

NURSE. WORKED UNTIL RETIREMENT. NOW WORKS AS A VISITING NURSE. LISTENS TO YUKI'S PROBLEMS.



**ADACHI KAZUYA**

THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF HIS FATHER'S ADACHI DENTAL CLINIC. OLDEST SON OF THE ADACHI FAMILY.



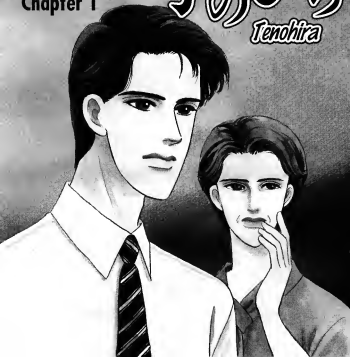
**ADACHI YUKI**

MARRIED TO A DENTIST FOR SIX YEARS. ENVIED BY OTHERS FOR MARRYING INTO WEALTH, BUT GREW UP POOR. HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.



# のんちゃんの *Non-chan no* 手のひら *Tenohira*

Chapter 1



OUR FOURTH  
ARTIFICIAL  
FERTILIZATION  
ENDED IN  
FAILURE...

REACHING  
OUT WITH  
BUT IT HOPE  
WILL NOT  
COME

MY HAPPINESS

OUR BABY...

HE LOOKS  
JUST LIKE  
YOU DID  
WHEN YOU  
WERE A BABY,  
KAZUYA.

YUTO  
HAS THE  
FACE OF AN  
ADACHI.







# のんちゃんの手のひら





MY,  
MY,  
ARE YOU  
TIRED,  
YU?

MY HORMONES ARE  
IMBALANCED,  
AND THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
WRONG WITH  
MY FALLOPIAN  
TUBES AND  
CERVICAL  
FLUID...



IT'S THE THIRD  
YEAR SINCE  
WE STARTED  
FERTILITY  
TREATMENTS.

IT'S THE SIXTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF WATCHING  
MY MOTHER-  
IN-LAW SMILE  
AT HER GRAND-  
CHILDREN.



IT'S NOT  
LIKE YOU  
CAN'T HAVE  
CHILDREN.

I FELT SO  
AWFUL I  
WANTED TO  
GET OUT OF  
THERE.

ONCE WE  
FIX YOUR  
FALLOPIAN  
TUBES THERE  
WOON'T BE A  
PROBLEM.

WHAT?

ARE YOU  
UNHAPPY?

YOU'RE  
UNUSUALLY  
QUIET.

# のんちゃんの手のひら





I KNOW MY HEART IS BREAKING.





EVERYONE  
SAWED ME AS  
SOMEONE WHO  
MARRIED INTO  
WEALTH.

MY HUSBAND  
WORKS AS A  
DENTIST AT  
HIS FAMILY'S  
ADACHI  
CLINIC.

BUT I FEEL  
LIKE I'VE  
STUMBLED  
INTO A TUNNEL  
WITHOUT AN  
EXIT IN SIGHT.



MY HUSBAND  
DOESN'T SAY  
ANYTHING  
ANY MORE,  
BUT...



I'VE GOT  
TO GO  
BACK.

THANKS.

SORRY.





NO  
NO

AND MY  
HOPES ARE  
BETRAYED  
OVER AND  
OVER.

I  
PRAY...

OH...

I WANT  
MY OWN...



MY DAYS  
ARE FULL  
OF ANXIETY  
AND  
SADNESS.

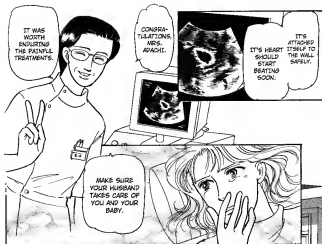


COULD  
IT BE...

FINALLY,  
AN END!



BABY...



# のんちゃんの手のひら



MY HUSBAND  
BOUGHT ME  
SUSHI AND  
FLOWERS.

HA HA HA

THE DUE  
DATE'S  
JUNE  
13TH.

YOUR  
EXISTENCE  
WILL CHANGE  
YOUR MOTHER'S  
WORLD.

YOU'RE  
PREG-  
NANT?

Aa~  
Father's girl

I NEVER  
THOUGHT  
I'D GET  
TO SEE MY  
GRAND-  
CHILD'S  
FACE.

ARE YOU  
CRYING,  
MOM?

I'M  
HAPPY!  
  
I'M SO  
HAPPY  
FOR YOU!

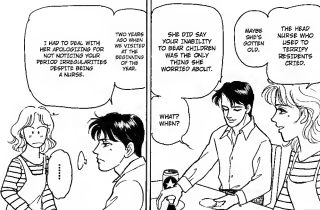
YOU  
WORKED HARD  
UNTIL YOUR  
RETIREMENT,  
SO YOU CAN  
TAKE IT EASY  
NOW.

YOU TOO,  
MOTHER.

YOUR  
FATHER  
WILL KEEP  
UP HIS  
STRENGTH  
SO HE CAN  
GO TO HIS  
GRANDCHILD'S  
WEDDING.

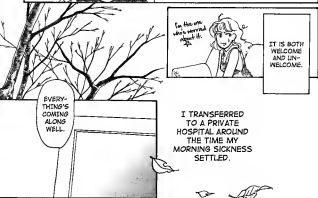
TAKE  
CARE OF  
YOUR-  
SELF.

OKAY,  
GOOD  
NIGHT.

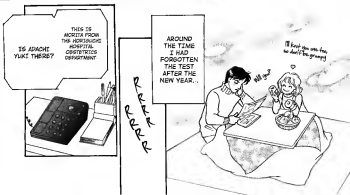




# のんちゃんの手のひら









A CHROMO-  
SOMAL  
ANOMALY?

WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?

EXCUSE  
ME...



YOUR CHILD HAS  
A HIGH CHANCE OF  
POSSESSING A  
CHROMOSOMAL  
ANOMALY.



THIS IS  
SHE.

DR. MORETA?

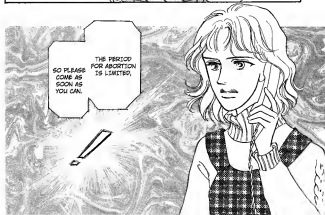
WE HAVE THE  
RESULTS FROM  
YOUR BLOOD  
SERUM MARKER  
TEST.



COULD YOU  
STOP BY  
WITH YOUR  
HUSBAND?

IT'S JUST  
A CHANCE,  
BUT THE  
PROBABILITY  
IS HIGH.

IT MEANS  
THERE IS A  
HIGH CHANCE  
YOUR CHILD  
WILL HAVE  
DOWN'S.



SO PLEASE  
COME AS  
SOON AS  
YOU CAN.

THE PERIOD  
FOR ABORTION  
IS LIMITED.



DOWN  
SYNDROME...

ABORTION?

WHAT IS  
THAT?



WHAT?

WHAT  
DID HE  
SAY?



A HIGH  
CHANCE?

THE GIRL I  
LOOKED AFTER  
THEN...

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MY FRIEND AND I  
CHOSE A CHILDCARE  
FACILITY FOR OUR  
WORK EXPERIENCE.



AND WAS A SMALL  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOLGIRL  
WHO FELL  
OVER A LOT.

COULDN'T SPEAK  
VERY WELL...

## DOWN SYNDROME

DOWN SYNDROME OCCURS WHEN THERE IS AN EXTRA 21ST CHROMOSOME. APPROXIMATELY ONE IN ONE THOUSAND CHILDREN ARE BORN WITH IT.

THOSE WITH DOWN SYNDROME HAVE A WIDE SPACE BETWEEN THEIR EYES, WHICH SLANT UPWARDS.

THEIR MUSCLES LACK TENSION AND THEIR MENTAL DEVELOPMENT IS SLOWED.

I CAUTIOUSLY  
OPENED  
OUR FAMILY  
MEDICAL BOOK.



NOTHING  
POSITIVE  
WAS  
WRITTEN.

MORPHOLOGICAL DEFECTS  
OF ORGANS CAN BE TREATED,  
AND DEPENDING ON THEIR  
DEGREE OF IMPAIRMENT  
OF COGNITIVE ABILITY,  
THEY CAN UNDERGO TRAINING  
TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY.

MALFORMATIONS OF THE HEART,  
ATRESIA OF THE ESOPHAGUS,  
DIFFICULTY DRINKING MILK,  
ATRESIA OF THE DUODENUM,  
INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE  
AND OTHER MORPHOLOGICAL  
DEFECTS OF THE INTERNAL  
ORGANS ARE NOT UNCOMMON.



# のんちゃんの手のひら



I COULD SENSE  
MY HUSBAND'S  
UNCERTAINTY AND  
FELT A TIGHTNESS  
IN MY CHEST.

I'LL  
MAKE TIME  
TOMORROW  
MORNING.



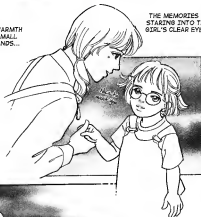
IT'S JUST  
A CHANCE,  
RIGHT?

IT'S NOT  
ALREADY  
DECIDED.

AND THE WARMTH  
OF HER SMALL  
ROUND HANDS...

WAS ALL  
THAT BARELY  
SUPPORTED ME...

THE MEMORIES OF  
STARING INTO THAT  
GIRL'S CLEAR EYES...



IN YOUR CASE,  
IT'S A 1 IN 25  
PROBABILITY.

AS AN OLDER MOTHER  
OVER THE AGE OF 35,  
THERE IS A 1 IN 200  
CHANCE OF DOWN SYNDROME,  
AND THAT NUMBER  
IS DIVIDED BETWEEN  
THE POSITIVE AND  
THE NEGATIVE.

1 IN 25...

IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
IT'S A ONE CHANCE  
IT WILL BE  
FINE AND A 4%  
IT WON'T.

THERE IS NO TREATMENT  
FOR DOWN SYNDROME,  
AND WE RECOMMEND  
THOSE WHO TEST POSITIVE  
TO UNDERGO AMNIOCENTESIS.

YOUR CHILD  
MAY FALL IN  
THAT 4%.

THAT'S TRUE.  
I CAN'T DENY  
THAT.

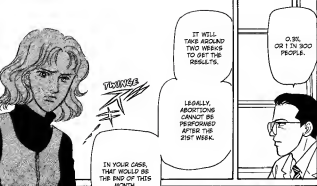
I'VE HEARD  
IT CAN CAUSE A  
MISBIRTH.

HOW  
LIKELY  
IS IT?

YES, WE WOULD  
CULTIVATE THE  
FETUS' CELLS AND  
ANALYZE THE  
CHROMOSOMES.

WE'LL KNOW  
DEFINITELY  
IF THERE IS  
AN ANOMALY.

YOU  
WOULD  
DRAW  
SOME  
AMNIOTIC  
FLUID??



IT WILL  
TAKE AROUND  
TWO WEEKS  
TO GET THE  
RESULTS.

0.3%,  
OR 1 IN 300  
PEOPLE.

LEGALLY,  
ABORTIONS  
CANNOT BE  
PERFORMED  
AFTER THE  
21ST WEEK.

IN YOUR CASE,  
THAT WOULD BE  
THE END OF THIS  
MONTH.

ARE YOU  
TELLING  
ME TO KILL  
THIS CHILD?

WAIT...

WAIT A  
MINUTE.



LISTENING  
TO THE DOCTOR'S  
EXPLANATION  
MADE MY FEET  
TREMBLE.

CONSIDER  
THIS CAREFULLY,  
AND LET US KNOW  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE IF  
YOU DESIRE THE  
PROCEDURE.

IT WOULD COST  
AROUND 150  
THOUSAND YEN,  
SO I WOULD  
NOT FORCE YOU  
TO DO IT.

IN ORDER TO  
ENSURE YOUR  
WELL-BEING  
YOU WOULD BE  
HOSPITALIZED  
FOR A DAY  
AFTER THE  
CENTESIS.



I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD  
THE MEANING OF THE  
MARKER TEST I HAD TAKEN.



"MIGHT  
AS WELL?"



IT'S  
JUST  
A 4%  
CHANCE.  
IT'LL BE  
FINE.

IT'S BETTER THAN  
WORRYING UNTIL THE  
BABY'S BORN.

THERE'S  
A MUCH  
GREATER  
CHANCE  
EVERYTHING  
WILL BE  
FINE.



WE MIGHT AS  
WELL GET THE  
AMNIOCENTESIS  
DONE.

# のんちゃんの手のひら





I DIDN'T  
THINK IT WOULD  
HAPPEN TO ME.

WHEN I READ  
THE EXPLANATION,  
IT OCCURRED TO  
ME THE BABY MIGHT  
BE BORN WITH  
ANOMALIES.



AND MADE  
ME SO HAPPY.

THIS CHILD  
CAME INTO  
MY STOMACH...

I'M SORRY  
I'M SUCH A  
PATHETIC  
MOTHER...



I WANTED  
SOMETHING  
TO MAKE ME  
FEEL BETTER  
AND TOOK  
THE TEST.

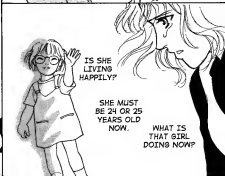
NOW I'M  
CRUMBLING  
UNDER THE  
DEFINITIVE  
PROBABILITY  
OF 1 IN 25...



IF MY CHILD  
HAS DOWN  
SYNDROME...

CAN THIS  
CHILD BE  
HAPPY?

SQUEEZE



IS SHE  
LIVING  
HAPPILY?

SHE MUST  
BE 24 OR 25  
YEARS OLD  
NOW.

WHAT IS  
THAT GIRL  
DOING NOW?



DON'T  
KILL ME.

I BARELY  
FELT IT,  
BUT THE  
MESSAGE  
WAS CLEAR.



IT  
MOVED.

THICE  
IN A ROW.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

YOU HAD TO  
LISTEN TO US  
TALK ABOUT  
KILLING YOU...

ARE YOU  
MAD?



I CAN'T  
KILL IT.

I *WONT*  
KILL IT!

BROUGHT ME  
SADNESS ...

THAT FIRST  
PETAL  
STIRRING  
THAT MOVES  
EVERYONE...

I MADE MY  
DECISION  
WITH A HEAVY  
HEART.

YES,  
THIS IS  
YAMAG-  
UCHI.

I COULDN'T  
SUPPORT  
MYSELF.

MOM...

YUKI,

WHAT'S  
WRONG?

.....

MORE THAN I  
WANT TO HAVE  
THIS CHILD NO  
MATTER WHAT...

I JUST  
DON'T  
WANT TO  
KILL IT...

I'M THINKING  
I DON'T NEED TO  
TAKE THE TEST...

Softly



THIS ISN'T THE  
TIME FOR THAT!



IF IT REALLY  
DOES HAVE DOWN  
SYNDROME,  
WILL THIS  
CHILD REALLY  
BE HAPPY TO  
BE BORN?

CON-  
FIDENT...

I'M NOT  
REALLY...



YES!

A TEST  
FROM THE  
CHILD  
INSIDE  
YOU.



A  
TEST?



THIS IS  
A TEST.

IF YOU DON'T  
TOUGHEN UP  
AND RECOGNIZE  
WHAT YOU WANT,  
YOU'LL REGRET  
IT WHETHER YOU  
TAKE THE TEST  
OR NOT.

IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE  
IF YOU DON'T WANT A  
CHILD WITH DOWN'S OR  
WANT ONE REGARDLESS,  
YOU'LL MAKE THE WRONG  
DECISION!

THIS  
ISN'T  
ABOUT  
THE  
CHILD.  
THIS IS  
ABOUT  
YOU!



IF YOU  
CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
THAT,  
THEN  
GIVE  
IT UP!

YOU'LL  
MAKE  
THIS  
CHILD  
HAPPY!

BUT I'M TELLING YOU  
THIS BECAUSE I'M  
WONDERING IF YOU'LL  
SUFFER FOR HAVING  
A CHILD JUST BECAUSE  
YOU DIDN'T WANT  
TO KILL IT.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THAT WOMAN  
WHO BRAGS ABOUT  
HER CHILDREN  
WOULD SAY,



THERE'S A CHILD  
WITH DOWN'S IN  
THE APARTMENT  
NEXT TO ONE OF  
MY PATIENTS.



I DON'T WANT  
A CHILD WITH  
DOWN'S?

HER MOTHER'S ALWAYS  
TELLING ME SHE'S NOT  
GOOD AT SPEAKING,  
BUT SHE HAS A  
GREAT SMILE.



SHE'S A  
FIRST  
GRADER  
NAMED  
MAI.

SHE'S A GOOD  
KID WITH A  
NICE SMILE WHO  
GOES TO LIKE  
SCHOOL.

SHOULD I ASK THIS GIRL WHO  
LOVES GOING TO SCHOOL  
MORE THAN BEING AT HOME  
IF SHE'S HAPPY TO HAVE  
BEEN BORN?



HER LACK  
OF MALICE  
MAKES HER  
POPULAR  
AMONG THE  
BIGGER  
KIDS.

SHE'S SMALL,  
AND THE OTHER  
KIDS PRACTICALLY  
COMPLETE TO  
CARRY THINGS  
FOR HER.

ARE YOU SURE  
YOU AREN'T ACTING  
LIKE A VICTIM  
CARRYING ALL  
THE WORLD'S  
UNHAPPINESS?

YUKI,

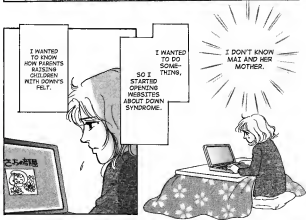
THIS IS  
DIFFICULT...

IT'S A  
TEST...

NOT THE CHILD  
INSIDE ME,  
BUT MYSELF...

THAT'S  
TRUE,  
BUT...







SOMETIMES  
THEY WOULD  
SWEAT WITH  
FEAR....

BUT AS LONG  
AS THEY HAD  
THEIR CHILDREN...

THEY ENJOYED  
THE GRADUAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
THEIR CHILDREN...



SO MANY  
MOTHERS RECEIVED  
JOY FROM THEIR  
CHILDREN.

SO MANY FATHERS...





WITH HARDLY  
ANY EXCEPTIONS,  
THEY ALL SAID...

"WE ARE THANKFUL  
TO HAVE THIS ANGEL  
IN OUR HOME."





I SEE...

I'M JUST  
LIKE THE  
REST OF  
THEM.

BUT I'M  
TELLING  
YOU TO  
TAKE THE  
TEST...

Don't do it.

I'M  
SHOCKED.

MY HUSBAND IS  
SUFFERING, TOO.

THAT'S THE  
FIRST TIME I'VE  
SEEN YOU CRY.

I'M THINKING OF  
REFUSING TO BE  
TESTED IN PLACE  
OF THIS CHILD WHO  
MAY HAVE Downs.

You'll be  
suffering  
too.

IS THERE  
ANYTHING MORE  
PAINFUL FOR A  
CHILD THAN TO BE  
REJECTED BY ITS  
OWN PARENTS?

REGARDLESS OF  
WHETHER OR NOT  
IT'S DISABLED.

SO...

BUT CAN YOU  
CONFIDENTLY  
SAY YOUR CHILD  
WON'T HAVE A  
DISABILITY THE  
AMNIOCENTESIS  
WON'T DETECT?

YOU MAY BE  
HAPPY YOUR  
CHILD IS 100%  
DISABILITY  
FREE...

THIS  
AMNIOCENTESIS  
IS NONSENSE,  
ANYWAY.



LET'S DO  
EVERYTHING  
WE CAN ABOUT  
THE REST  
OF OUR  
PROBLEMS.



I DON'T WANT  
IT TO HAVE A  
DISABILITY.

OF COURSE  
I WANT THE  
CHILD TO  
BE BORN  
NORMAL.



ACCEPTING THE UNKNOWN  
IS PROBABLY THE FIRST  
STEP OF PARENTHOOD.

BUT NOBODY  
KNOWS  
ANYTHING  
UNTIL THE  
CHILD IS  
BORN.



IF I TAKE THE  
AMNIOCENTESIS  
AND THE  
CHILD HAS NO  
DISABILITY...

I FEEL LIKE  
I CAN'T TELL  
IT THAT.

I WANT TO  
TELL MY  
CHILD I ACCEPT  
WHO YOU ARE.

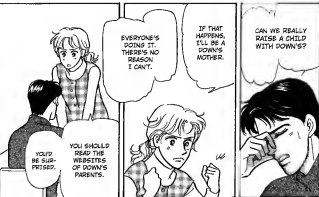
I FOUND  
YOU.  
I FINALLY  
MET THIS  
LIFE.



THAT'S  
ALL.

THIS CHILD.  
I WANT IT TO BE GLAD  
WE'RE ITS PARENTS.

NO?





Dear YUKI,

If Kenji hadn't been born, I wouldn't have known the kindness of people, the joys of life, and the happiness of family, etc. I have learned a lot I am living with Kenji's easy going and soothing smile.

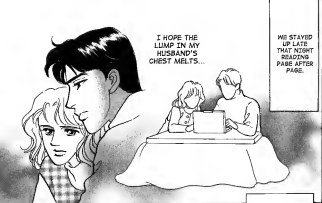
Thank you. If there were more people like you, these prenatal diagnoses that sow seeds of unhappiness would stop spreading.

I am not unhappy!

Have your child in peace.

Memonga





I HOPE THE  
LUMP IN MY  
HUSBAND'S  
CHEST MELTS...

HE STAYED  
UP LATE  
THAT NIGHT  
READING  
PAGE AFTER  
PAGE.

I'll welcome the unique  
life inside you!

I HAD  
TWO MORE  
MESSAGES OF  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
BY THE NEXT  
MORNING.

Down's syndrome? What about it? You'll  
want to apologize for being so happy.





# のんちゃんの手のひら





YOU HAVE TO HURRY.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!  
THE EXAMINATION WILL  
TAKE TIME.

IT'S MY  
CHILD AND  
YOUR  
GRANDCHILD.



THE TIME LIMIT IS ON  
THE ABORTION,  
NOT THE EXAMINATION.

PLEASE,  
YUKI.



YOU'RE AN  
ADACHI.



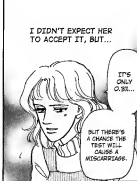
THAT'S IRRELEVANT.  
THIS COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE.  
STAY OUT OF THIS!



GET THE EXAMINATION.  
PUT MY MIND AT EASE!  
SHIORI ISN'T  
MARRIED YET.  
WE CAN'T HAVE THIS  
INTERFERING WITH HER.



THAT'S  
NOTHING  
COMPARED  
TO I IN 25!



I DIDN'T EXPECT HER  
TO ACCEPT IT, BUT...

IT'S  
ONLY  
0.32...

BUT THERE'S  
A CHANCE THE  
TEST WILL  
CAUSE A  
MISCARRIAGE.



WHAT ARE YOU  
GOING TO DO IF  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENS?

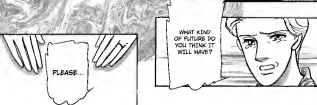
IF IT  
WERE JUST  
YOUR CHILD,  
I WOULDN'T  
SAY ANYTHING.

BUT IT'S  
MY GRANDCHILD!  
IT'S THE CHILD OF  
THE OLDEST SON OF  
THE ADACHI FAMILY.



WHAT CAN  
I SAY TO  
CONVINCE  
HER?

DON'T YOU  
FEEL BAD FOR  
THE CHILD?



PLEASE...

WHAT KIND  
OF FUTURE DO  
YOU THINK IT  
WILL HAVE?

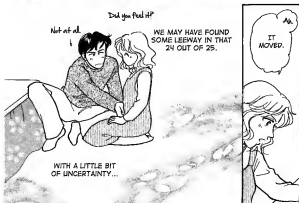






# のんちゃんの手のひら







OUR FIRST  
KISS WAS UNDER  
THE CHERRY  
BLOSSOMS.

WE LOOKED  
FORWARD TO  
THE DAY WE  
WOULD MEET  
THE CHILD WE  
HAD WISHED FOR.

WAS  
IT?

I WANTED TO  
ENJOY WHAT MIGHT  
BE MY ONLY  
PREGNANCY!

JUST  
FORGET  
THAT.

DIDN'T YOU SAY  
YOU REMEMBER  
IT EVERY YEAR  
THEY BLOOM?

I'LL  
REMEMBER  
UNTIL THE  
DAY I DIE!

17-18



MY MOTHER-IN-LAW  
NEVER SAID IF MY  
HUSBAND'S WORDS  
WORKED.

GIVE THEM  
TO YOUR  
MOTHER.

IF IT'S  
JUST A  
FORMALITY,  
I DON'T  
NEED IT.

SHE HAS  
BECOME  
COLDER,  
THOUGH.

HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY.

This is  
just a  
formality.



AT THESE TIMES I  
WISH FOR THE CHILD  
TO BE NORMAL.



IT'S  
ALL TALK.

ONCE THEIR  
DREAMS COLLAPSE  
DOWN,  
THEY'LL WARM  
UP TO YOU.

THE ADACHI  
FAMILY  
IS SO  
UNAPPROACH-  
ABLE.

DON'T THINK  
ABOUT THINGS  
BEYOND YOUR  
CONTROL.

LOOK AT THE  
BEAUTIFUL  
MAY SKY!

WE SHOULD  
LIVE HAPPILY.  
EVERY PARENT  
WANTS TO SEE  
THEIR CHILD  
BE HAPPY.



THE  
WINNERS  
ARE THE  
HAPPY  
ONES.

YOU'RE TRYING TO  
CONVINCE YOURSELF,  
AREN'T YOU?

WE ENCOURAGED  
EACH OTHER  
WHEN WE FELT  
DOWN.

あんなに悲しかった  
時に、お互いに  
励ましあつて



TWO WEEKS  
BEFORE MY  
DUE DATE...

瀬口病院



THANK  
YOU.

OH, MR.  
ADACHI.

YOUR  
WIFE IS IN  
THE LABOR  
ROOM.



I'M  
ADACHI.

SHE'S BEEN  
HOSPITALIZED  
BECAUSE HER  
WATER BROKE.  
HAS THE CHILD  
BEEN BORN YET?



CALM  
DOWN.

I'LL  
SHOW  
YOU THE  
WAY.

WHERE  
IS THE  
LABOR  
ROOM?







UGH!

THE ONLY THING  
TO DO IS HAVE  
THIS CHILD.

THE  
HEAD'S  
COMING  
OUT.

GET IT OUT  
ON THE NEXT  
PUSH.

Pant

Pant

Pant

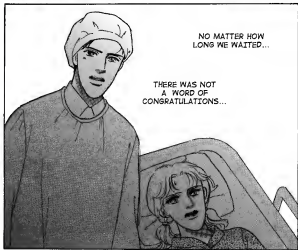
COME!

NOW,

COME TO  
YOUR FATHER  
AND MOTHER.

UGH!





CHAPTER 1 END

NON-CHAN NO TENOHIRA

# のんちゃんの手ひら

CHAPTER 2

《第2話》



WITHOUT LETTING  
ME HOLD HER,  
WITHOUT EVEN  
LETTING ME SEE  
HER FACE, MY  
DAUGHTER GOT  
TAKEN AWAY.



303

YUKI ADACHI

I SHOULD  
BE FEELING  
TIRED AFTER  
THE DELIVERY,

BUT I CAN'T  
SLEEP, EVEN  
IF I CLOSE  
MY EYES.

MY LOVE  
FOR IT  
ONLY GROWS  
DEEPER.



WHEN I THINK ABOUT  
THE HEAVY BURDENS  
THIS SMALL LITTLE  
SIX POUND  
BODY WILL HAVE  
TO CARRY...



COME  
TO MOMMY,  
QUICK!

ALL I WANT  
NOW, I JUST  
TO HOLD MY  
BABY IN MY  
ARMS.













I KNOW  
SHE WAS  
PREPARED  
FOR THIS.

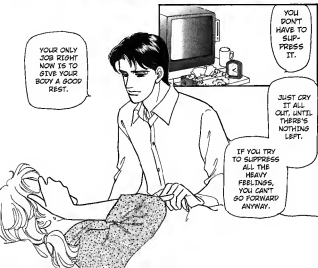
BUT BECAUSE  
HER BODY NEEDS  
THE REST TO  
RECOVER, TRY NOT TO  
TELL HER ANY OF  
THE SHOCKING  
NEWS.



...



I KNOW I SHOULDN'T  
START CRYING AT A  
TIME LIKE THIS,  
BUT...



YOUR ONLY  
JOB RIGHT  
NOW IS TO  
GIVE YOUR  
BODY A GOOD  
REST.

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TO  
SUP-  
PRESS  
IT.

JUST CRY  
IT ALL  
OUT, UNTIL  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
LEFT.

IF YOU TRY  
TO SUPPRESS  
ALL THE  
HEAVY  
FEELINGS,  
YOU CAN'T  
GO FORWARD  
ANYWAY.



I FEEL  
SO  
SORRY  
...



BUT...

I'LL  
HAVE  
TO  
APOLO-  
GIZE  
TO  
YOUR  
MOTHER.



SHOWING  
A V WHILE  
YOU'RE  
CRYING YOUR  
HEART OUT,  
HUH...

YOU...



HEHEHE...

LAUHAU...



THERE'S  
NOTHING  
FOR US  
TO DO,  
BUT TO  
ACCEPT  
IT, AND  
MOVE  
ON.

IF THIS  
CHILD WAS  
DESTINED TO  
BE BORN IN  
OUR  
FAMILY,

COME  
ON,

THIS  
ISN'T  
ANY-  
ONE'S  
FAULT.



IT'S ALMOST  
A CERTAINTY  
THAT THEY'LL  
GROW UP  
HAVING  
AN EXTREMELY  
NICE  
PERSONALITY.

CHILDREN  
WITH DOWN  
ARE VERY  
SOCIAL, CHEERFUL  
AND GENTLE...

AND  
WHAT  
ELSE  
WAS  
IT...



WASN'T  
IT  
WRITTEN  
IN ANY  
BOOK WE  
READ?



THE CRIBS  
OF A  
HEALTHY  
BABY IN  
THE NEXT  
ROOM...

EVEN IF I TRY  
TO WITHDRAW IN MY  
SLEEP, I JUST  
CAN'T ESCAPE  
FROM THE HEAVY  
FEELING IN MY  
HEART.

WHEN I'M ACTUALLY  
FACED WITH THIS  
ONE IN 25 CHANCE,  
IT'S HARD TO KEEP  
UP MY SERENITY.



NORIKO...

NORIKO-CHAN...

NON-CHAN...

THEN I  
REALIZED  
THAT THE  
CRIES OF  
MY BABY  
HAD  
SOUNDED  
VERY  
WEAK,  
WHEN SHE  
WAS BORN.

I'M SORRY  
THAT YOU  
COULDN'T BE  
BORN IN A  
HEALTHY BODY.

IN MY  
SHALLOW  
SLEEP, I  
EAGERLY  
CALLED  
OUT TO MY  
DAUGHTER,  
WHO I  
HAD NEVER  
SEEN THE  
FACE OF.

IT WAS  
BOTH  
THE  
HAPPIEST  
AND THE  
SADDEST  
NIGHT OF  
MY ENTIRE  
32 YEARS  
LONG  
LIFE.

MOMMY WILL  
BE STRONG!

LET'S DO  
OUR BEST,  
TOGETHER!

堀口病院

HORIUCHI HOSPITAL

WERE YOU  
REALLY  
DESTINED FOR  
THIS...?

BIRTH REPORT

|               |     |     |               |               |                |               |               |                |
|---------------|-----|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| NAME          | SEX | AGE | DATE OF BIRTH | TIME OF BIRTH | PLACE OF BIRTH | DATE OF DEATH | TIME OF DEATH | PLACE OF DEATH |
| Noriko Adachi | F   | 32  | 1988.10.10    | 18:00         | Osaka          | 1998.10.10    | 18:00         | Osaka          |
| ...           | ... | ... | ...           | ...           | ...            | ...           | ...           | ...            |

OR ARE  
WE THE  
ONES WHO  
ARE PUTTING  
THE BURDEN  
ON YOU?

NORIKO...

TO CARRY  
A HEAVY  
BURDEN  
THROUGHOUT  
YOUR WHOLE  
LIFE...

AND THAT AFTER  
I BEGGED YOU  
TIME AFTER TIME  
TO GET THE  
AMNIOCENTESIS  
TEST DONE...!!

IF WE HAD  
TAKEN THE TEST,  
WOULD WE HAVE  
BEEN ABLE TO  
CARRY THE  
WEIGHT OF IT?

WOULD WE  
HAVE LET THE  
CHILD BE  
BORN?



SO YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO BE  
HURT.

AT  
LEAST,

LET US  
DO OUR  
BEST SO  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
BE SAD,

DID WE  
MAKE A  
MISTAKE...?

NORIKO!!



I WOULD  
LIKE TO  
SEE HER.

HOW  
IS MY  
CHILD?



ALL RIGHT,  
LET'S TRY  
WALKING TO  
THE TOILET.

UMMA...



DON'T  
YOU  
FEEL  
DIZZY?

HOW  
IS THE  
PAIN?

BEAR-  
ABLE...

JUST TELL  
ME OKAY?  
WHY CAN'T  
I SEE HER?  
WHY SHOULDN'T  
I WORRY?



2/21

DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT IT!

IT'S JUST  
THAT THEY'RE  
DOING A LOT  
OF TESTS.



IS IT SO  
BAD THAT  
I CAN'T  
EVEN TAKE  
A LOOK  
AT HER?



NOT IN  
GOOD  
CONDI-  
TION...?

WHAT DOES  
SHE MEAN?

SHE'S NOT  
IN GOOD  
CONDITION  
YET, SO  
YOU HAVE TO  
WAIT JUST  
A BIT  
LONGER.



I CAN'T  
SLEEP ANYWAY,  
SO I'M GOING  
TO CHECK IT  
OUT FOR  
MYSELF!



EVEN IF  
IT'S ONLY  
THE HEAD  
I CAN  
SEE...

THAT  
MUST  
BE  
NORIKO  
!

I CAN  
SEE THE  
HEAD OF  
THE BABY  
IN THE  
GLASS BOX...

SHE  
LOOKS  
CUTE!!



OH  
MY!  
HE  
LOOKS  
JUST  
LIKE  
HIS  
FATHER!

IT'S THE  
BABY IN  
THE MIDDLE.

HOW  
CUTE!!

THOSE ARE  
THE HEALTHY  
BABIES.





SHE WILL  
MAKE IT...  
RIGHT?

WE SHOULD  
HAVE BROUGHT  
HIS EYES ALONG  
TOO...

I WONDER  
WHAT THEY'RE  
DOING WITH  
HER...



DID I DO  
SOMETHING  
WRONG?

WHY?

I GUESS  
I'LL GO  
BACK TO  
MY ROOM  
THEN...



I FEEL LIKE  
THE NURSES  
DON'T LIKE  
ME BEING  
HERE...

...  
...



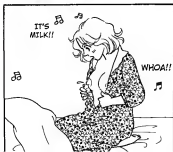
OH,  
MS.  
ADACHI!



I'M GLAD  
I GOT A  
PRIVATE  
ROOM

I WOULD GO  
CRAZY IF I  
WERE IN THE  
SAME ROOM  
AS A MOTHER  
WITH A HEALTHY  
BABY...

I'VE  
ASKED  
MYSELF  
THAT  
QUESTION  
SO MANY  
TIMES...



IT'S  
MILK!!

WHOA!!



HEAVEN  
SWEET



THEY  
STILL  
WON'T LET  
ME HOLD  
HER...



EVEN  
THOUGH  
MY BODY  
THINKS  
IT HAS  
BECOME  
A MOTHER,



...



I NEED  
TO GIVE  
IT TO MY  
CHILD!

IT'S HER  
FIRST  
MILK!



TSK!  
THIS ISN'T  
THE TIME  
TO BE  
CRYING!



SO YOU  
STARTED  
LACTATING  
!!

AH!

AS THE  
BIRTH  
ATTEN-  
DANT  
APPEAR-  
ED...



BUT IF I  
THINK ABOUT  
MY DAUGHTER,  
MY TEARS JUST  
WON'T STOP...



OVER...

SHE'S BEING EXAMINED NOW, SO YOU HAVE TO WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

I WILL ASK THE DOCTOR.

AFTER BEGGING HER IN TEARS,

I GOT CALLED OUT IN THE EARLY EVENING.

IS IT SUCH AN UNREASONABLE REQUEST TO LET ME MEET HER JUST ONCE?!

IF HER CONDITION IS BAD, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT IT'S BAD? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP?!

SHE DOWN SYNDROME, DOESN'T SHE?!



WHA ...



SHE HAD TROUBLE DRINKING THE MILK, SO WE'RE GIVING IT THROUGH HER NOSE.



IT'S MUST BE  
BECAUSE OF  
HER HEART THAT  
HER BODY COLOR  
SEEMS A BIT  
YELLOW.

WE  
FINALLY  
MEET!

AND THE  
LINES IN  
HER ARM AND  
HER NOSE  
LOOK PAIN-  
FUL....

HER BREATHING SEEMS  
A BIT RESTLESS,  
AND HER SLEEPING  
FACE SHOWS A PAINFUL  
GRIMACE.



COME TO  
ME AS SOON  
AS YOU  
CAN.

HANG ON,  
MOMMY'S  
WAITING  
FOR YOU.

NON-  
CHAN,  
THIS IS  
YOUR  
MOMMY.



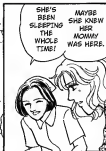
WHOA!  
GOOD  
TIMING!





I CAN'T  
THINK OF  
THIS AS A  
COINCIDENCE.

HER EYES  
FIXED IN MY  
DIRECTION,  
AS IF SHE  
WANTED TO  
SAY SOMETHING...



SHE'S  
BEEN  
SLEEPING  
THE  
WHOLE  
TIME!

MAYBE  
SHE KNEW  
HER  
MOMMY  
WAS HERE.



YEAH,  
IT'S MOMMY!

YOU KNOW  
THAT, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW MOMMY'S  
VOICE, DON'T YOU?

SHE MUST  
BE ABLE  
TO SENSE  
IT!



ON THE SECOND  
DAY OF HER LIFE,  
NORIKO COULD  
SENSE HER MOTHER...



EVEN SO,  
THAT WAS OUR  
ONLY CONTACT,





...IF SHE  
THROWS  
UP HER  
MILK...

WHAT  
CAN WE  
DO  
ABOUT  
THAT?



BECAUSE  
OF THE  
NARROW  
PYLORUS,  
IT'S  
DIFFICULT  
FOR MILK  
TO PASS  
THROUGH.

SO THE  
MILK JUST  
COMES OUT  
AGAIN LIKE A  
FOUNTAIN  
THROUGH HER  
MOUTH OR  
NOSE.



THAT'S SO  
EASY TO  
SAY...

...

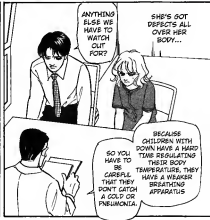
IN CASE  
SHE DOESN'T  
SEEM TO GAIN  
WEIGHT,  
SHE'LL NEED  
SURGERY  
FOR THIS  
AS WELL.



SO THE  
CHANCE  
THEY'LL  
NEED SPECIAL  
TREATMENT  
FOR THOSE  
IS QUITE  
BIG AS  
WELL.

AND AS  
THEY GROW  
UP, THERE  
MIGHT BE  
TROUBLE  
WITH  
THEIR EYES,  
NOSE OR  
EARS.

APART  
FROM  
THAT  
...



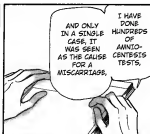
ANYTHING  
ELSE WE  
HAVE TO  
WATCH  
OUT  
FOR?

SHE'S GOT  
DEFECTS ALL  
OVER HER  
BODY...

SO YOU  
HAVE TO  
BE  
CAREFUL  
THAT THEY  
DON'T CATCH  
A COLD OR  
PNEUMONIA.

BECAUSE  
CHILDREN WITH  
DOWN HAVE A HARD  
TIME REGULATING  
THEIR BODY  
TEMPERATURE, THEY  
HAVE A WEAKER  
BREATHING  
APPARATUS







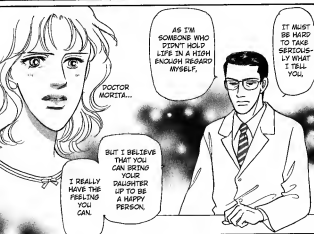
PLEASE  
HAVE  
HOPE  
AS  
WELL.

THAT  
WOULD  
BE THE  
BEST.

PLEASE DO  
YOUR  
ABSOLUTE  
BEST TO  
RAISE IT  
IN A WARM  
HOME...

BUT DEPENDING  
ON THE PARENTS'  
ATTITUDE,  
YOU NEVER KNOW  
HOW FAR IT WILL  
DEVELOP.

IF YOU  
COMPARE  
YOUR CHILD  
TO A NORMAL  
BABY, IT WILL  
INEVITABLY  
DEVELOP  
SLOWER.



DOCTOR  
MORITA...

I REALLY  
HAVE THE  
FEELING  
YOU CAN.

BUT I BELIEVE  
THAT YOU  
CAN BRING  
YOUR  
DAUGHTER  
UP TO BE  
A HAPPY  
PERSON.

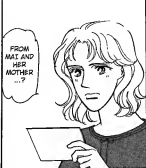
AS I'M  
SOMEONE WHO  
DIDN'T HOLD  
LIFE IN A HIGH  
ENOUGH REGARD  
MYSELF.

IT MUST  
BE HARD  
TO TAKE  
SERIOUSLY  
WHAT I TELL  
YOU.





WHEN MAI WAS BORN WITH DOWN SYNDROME, THERE WASN'T A SINGLE PERSON WHO CONGRATULATED THEM. THIS MADE HER MOTHER FEEL EVEN MORE DEPRESSED, SO SHE REALLY WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS.



FROM MAI AND HER MOTHER ... ?



MAI GOES TO VISIT HER BEDRIDDEN GRANDMOTHER VERY OFTEN TOO.



I SEE.



WHEN I TOLD HER MY DAUGHTER WAS ALSO ABOUT TO HAVE A CHILD SUFFERING FROM DOWN'S, I STARTED GETTING ALONG WITH HER VERY WELL.



OH... YEAH.

ARE YOU LACTATING ALREADY?



ARE YOU PLANNING TO SQUEEZE THEM OUT AND PUT THE MILK IN THE FREEZER, OR WHAT?

BEFORE I KNEW, THEY STARTED SWELLING JUST LIKE THAT!

THIS MORNING IT WAS SO PAINFUL I COULD CRY, SO I GOT A MASSAGE.



I SEE...

WHEN I GET BACK HOME, I WANT TO MEET THEM!



I'M RELIEVED...  
I THOUGHT YOU  
WOULD BE IN A  
MUCH WORSE  
STATE.



OH, YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO DO THAT  
JUST  
FOR ME.

I'LL  
GO BUY  
SOME  
TEA.

I'LL  
BE  
RIGHT  
BACK.



HEHEHE

I THINK  
HE WAS  
FEELING  
EMBARRASSED!

HMM...



FROM  
THE  
ADAPTE  
SIDE OF  
THE  
FAMILY,  
NOBODY  
CAME TO  
VISIT  
YET...

AND I'M  
STILL  
HOLDING  
BACK A  
LOT OF  
TEARS...

I DO HAVE  
TO CRY  
NOW AND  
THEN...



EVERY DAY  
HE'S BEEN  
HERE, I  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD A  
SINGLE WORD  
ABOUT BEING  
A PARENT  
FROM HIM.

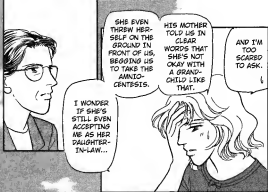
BUT  
I KNOW  
SOMETHING'S  
UP...

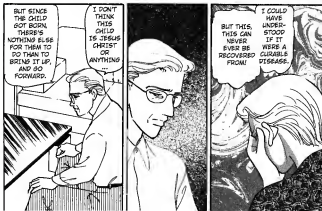
AND SINCE THE  
BIRTH, KAZUYA  
HAS BEEN  
ACTING ALL  
CONSPICUOUS  
TOWARDS ME,  
JUST SO I CAN  
PROPERLY  
REST MY  
BODY.

I HEARD THAT  
ON THE NIGHT  
OF THE BIRTH,  
KAZUYA'S  
MOM CAME  
RUSHING TO  
THE HOSPITAL.

BUT SHE  
WENT HOME  
AGAIN  
WITHOUT EVEN  
SAYING HE  
TO ME.

OR  
NO...











LET'S DO  
THAT ANOTHER  
TIME. I DON'T  
THINK THEY'LL  
BE HOME  
ANYWAY.

HUH?

I WANT TO  
GO GREET  
YOUR MOTHER  
BEFORE WE  
GO HOME,  
EVEN IF IT'S  
JUST A  
MOMENT.

SHE  
MUST  
HAVE  
SOME  
THINGS  
TO SAY  
TOO.



HMM...  
I SEE...



IT SEEMS LIKE  
SAORI'S  
HUSBAND IS  
ON A BUSINESS  
TRIP, AND MOM  
WENT TO STAY  
AT SAORI'S  
PLACE...



HM?

...LET'S  
JUST BE  
HONEST  
HERE,  
OKAY?

SHE'S  
NOT A BAD  
PERSON  
AT ALL,  
YOU  
KNOW.

PLEASE  
FORGIVE  
HER...

IT'S  
JUST  
THAT...

SHE'S VERY  
CONSER-  
VATIVE  
MINDED...

...

YOUR  
MOM  
...

MIGHT  
IT BE  
POS-  
SIBLE  
THAT  
SHE  
SNAP-  
PED?





IF YOU  
THINK  
ABOUT  
IT THAT  
WAY,

LET US  
MAKE HER  
GRAND-  
PARENTS  
REALIZE  
THIS  
TOO!!

NORIKO  
MADE US  
REALIZE  
THIS BY  
BEING  
BORN  
THIS  
WAY.

NORIKO  
WAS BORN  
TO PLAY A BIG  
ROLE.



THIS IS  
YUKI.  
I WAS  
ALLOWED  
TO LEAVE  
THE  
HOSPITAL  
TODAY.

ARGH  
...

OH...  
THAT'S  
GOOD  
NEWS!  
CONGRA-  
TULA-  
TIONS!



KAZUYA'S  
FATHER...

YES,  
ADACHI  
SPEAKING  
?



WHAT  
A GOOD  
MAN...

THANK  
YOU.

DON'T BE TOO  
HARD ON  
YOURSELF.  
JUST MAKE  
SURE YOU  
TAKE ENOUGH  
REST.

NOT AT ALL...  
IT MUST  
BE MANY  
TIMES  
HARDER ON  
YOU.

I'M SORRY  
FOR  
MAKING  
YOU WORRY  
SO MUCH  
ABOUT US.

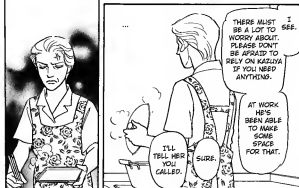


WHAT SWEET  
WORDS...

AND WHEN HIS  
OWN CHILD WAS  
BORN, HE DIDN'T  
DO ANYTHING TO  
HELP ME OUT...

WELL, SHE  
WAS BORN A  
LITTLE BIT TOO  
EARLY, SO AT  
THE EARLIEST  
SHE WON'T BE  
LEAVING THE  
HOSPITAL BEFORE  
NEXT MONTH.

NORIKO  
HAS TO  
STAY A  
LITTLE  
WHILE  
LONGER?



I  
SEE.  
THERE MUST  
BE A LOT TO  
WORRY ABOUT.  
PLEASE DON'T  
BE AFRAID TO  
RELY ON KAZUYA  
IF YOU NEED  
ANYTHING.

AT WORK  
HE'S  
BEEN ABLE  
TO MAKE  
SOME  
SPACE  
FOR THAT.

I'LL  
TELL HER  
YOU CALLED.

SURE.





LOOK LOOK!  
SHE'S SMILING  
A LITTLE BIT  
HERE!

THEY'RE  
TREATING  
HER WITH  
LOVE.

THANK  
YOU,  
EVERY-  
ONE.



YES!

AM I  
TALKING  
TO  
NORIKO'S  
MOTHER?

THIS IS  
THE MATERNITY  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HORTALUCHE  
HOSPITAL.



YES,  
I COULD  
START  
EVEN  
TODAY!!



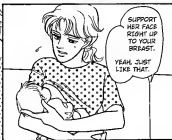
ARE YOU  
READY  
TO START  
BREAST-  
FEEDING,  
MRS.  
ADACHI?

WE WOULD  
LIKE TO  
HAVE HER  
START  
PRACTICE  
DRINKING  
MILK.



THANK  
YOU FOR  
TAKING  
SO GOOD  
CARE OF  
HER!

DID  
ANYTHING  
HAPPEN  
TO HER...?





BUT WHEN  
I LOOK  
INTO THOSE  
SWEEP  
LITTLE EYES,  
LOOKING  
STRAIGHT UP  
AT ME...



IT HURTS TO  
SEE HER  
SOMETIMES  
LETTING GO,  
WITH A  
PAINFUL  
GRIMACE.

IF THIS  
ISN'T PURE  
HAPPINESS...

SINCE I GOT  
MARRIED,  
IT'S MY  
BIGGEST  
DREAM COME  
TRUE!

THEN WHAT  
IS IT,  
NON-CHAN... ♡



I HAVE TO  
GO GREET  
HER AT  
LEAST ONCE...

I HAVE  
NO IDEA  
WHAT SHE'S  
GOING TO  
SAY TO ME  
THOUGH.



THE DATE  
SHE WOULD  
LEAVE THE  
HOSPITAL  
GOT  
DECIDED!!



JUNE, IN  
THE MIDDLE  
OF THE  
RAINY  
SEASON.



リ  
ン  
ゴ  
ゴ  
ン



WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER?

ハ  
ムム...?

IT'S ME  
YUKI.  
I THOUGHT  
IT WAS A  
LONG TIME  
SINCE I  
VISITED...



WHO'S  
THERE?

カ  
カ

WILL A  
SNAKE OR  
A DEMON  
OPEN THE  
DOOR?





OH  
REALLY?

THAT'S  
GOOD  
NEWS.  
CONGRA-  
TULA-  
TIONS.



I'M SORRY FOR  
KEEPING YOU  
WORRIED ALL  
THIS TIME, BUT  
THEY TOLD ME  
NORIKO CAN  
LEAVE THE  
HOSPITAL ON  
FRIDAY!

I JUST  
CAME  
BACK  
FROM  
THE HOSPI-  
TAL.

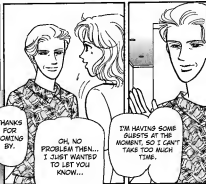


HUH...?

IS THAT  
EVERY-  
THING  
YOU HAD  
TO SAY?



HEY,  
YUTORI!



THANKS  
FOR  
COMING  
BY.

OH, NO  
PROBLEM THEN...  
I JUST WANTED  
TO LET YOU  
KNOW...

I'M HAVING SOME  
GUESTS AT THE  
MOMENT, SO I CAN'T  
TAKE TOO MUCH  
TIME.

GUESTS...?  
DOES SHE  
MEAN SAORI?



AT THE END OF  
JUNE, NORIKO'S LONG  
AWAITED HOME-COMING!



MORE  
IMPORTANTLY,  
SHE'LL BE  
COMING  
HOME  
SOON!!

I HOPE  
FRIDAY  
WILL  
COME BY  
QUICKLY!

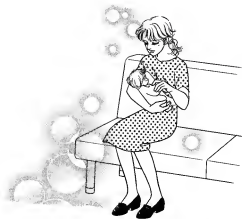
I'M NOT  
PULLING  
BACK  
ANYMORE!!



I'LL BE A  
GREAT  
MOTHER!!



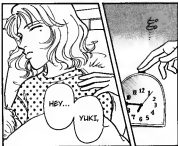
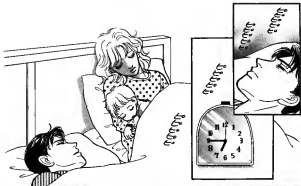
I WAS  
PREPARED  
TO BECOME  
THE MOTHER  
OF A DOWN  
SYNDROME  
CHILD!!

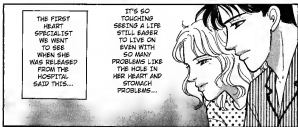


NON-CHAN NO TENOHIRA  
CHAPTER 3

# のんちゃんの 手のひら









JUST  
LETTING  
IT BE...?

THE CHOICE  
OF LETTING HER  
HAVE THE  
SURGERY, OR  
JUST LETTING  
IT BE, IS UP  
TO THE FAMILY.



WITH SURGERY,  
THE HOLE IN HER  
HEART CAN BE  
TREATED, BUT FOR  
A CHILD WITH  
DOWN  
SYNDROME, AN  
OPERATION LIKE  
THAT HOLDS A  
LOT OF RISKS.

IN ANY  
CASE, AT  
THIS TIME  
IT IS  
STILL TOO  
EARLY.



NOT  
AT  
ALL!!

BUT IT'S NOT  
UNCOMMON  
FOR SUCH A  
HOLE TO  
JUST CLOSE  
ON ITS OWN.  
WOULDN'T THEY  
TELL YOU THAT?

WELL, THIS HOLE...  
IT'S A PHENOMENON THAT  
OFTEN HAPPENS IN  
CHILDREN THAT ARE BORN  
PREMATURELY. IT'S  
BECAUSE THE MEMBRANE  
THAT CLOSURES THIS HOLE  
DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME  
TO DEVELOP.

AFTER THIS CONVERSATION,  
I COULDN'T HELP BUT FEEL  
WORRIED, SO I CALLED  
DOCTOR NAGASAWA FOR  
ADVICE. THE DOCTOR THAT  
HELPED US OUT A LOT WHEN  
WE WERE TRYING TO GET  
A CHILD



IF YOU WANT,  
YOU CAN ALWAYS  
COME BY, AND I  
CAN INTRODUCE  
YOU TO DOCTOR  
HARADA, A HEART  
SURGEON I KNOW.



THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH FOR  
HAVING  
ME AGAIN  
AT THE  
KOSHIKAWA  
HOSPITAL.

THE MOTHER IS  
A CHILD'S BEST  
DOCTOR, SO IF  
YOU NOTICE THAT  
ANYTHING IS  
OUT OF THE  
ORDINARY, YOU  
CAN ALWAYS  
BRING HER TO  
ME.

SO DON'T  
WORRY ABOUT  
IT TOO MUCH,  
BUT OF COURSE,  
BE CAREFUL AND  
STAY ALERT.

THERE HAVE BEEN A  
CONSIDERABLE  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
IN A WORSE HEALTH  
CONDITION THAN  
YOUR CHILD,  
WHO HEALED  
FROM IT  
NATURALLY.





HAHA...  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
HAPPENS  
WITH  
DOWN  
SYNDROME  
BABIES  
EH...

AND WHEN  
I THOUGHT  
THAT WAS  
OVER, SHE  
GOT  
CONSTIP-  
ATED...

LAST WEEK  
SHE HAD A  
FEVER,  
AND NOW  
AND THEN  
A BIT OF  
DIARRHEA.

THIS IS  
YAMADA.  
HOW IS  
NON-  
CHAN?

YES,  
THIS  
IS  
AOACHI  
?

YUTA'S  
MOM!

JUST  
A  
SECOND,  
NON-  
CHAN.

WE'RE HAVING  
A SUNFLOWER  
MEETING FROM  
NOON.

I WAS WONDERING  
IF I COULD  
INTRODUCE YOU  
TO THE OTHER  
MEMBERS, SO  
THAT'S WHY I  
CALLED...

DO YOU  
HAVE ANY  
SPECIAL  
PLANS  
TODAY?

I WAS  
PLANNING TO  
GO TO THE BABY  
GYMNASTICS  
MEETING...  
ANY OTHER  
SUGGESTIONS  
?

GOT  
IT!

YOU SHOULDN'T  
GIVE HER AN  
BATH UNTIL  
IT GETS REALLY  
OUT OF HAND.  
YOU SHOULD  
TRY DOING IT  
WITH MASSAGE  
AND COTTON  
SWABS.

THAT'S  
WHAT I'M  
DOING!

KAZUMI YAMADA,  
THE MOTHER OF YUTA.  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
NURSE INTRODUCED ME  
TO HER WHEN SHE  
CAME TO OUR HOUSE.

KAZUMI IS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE LOCAL HIMAWARI  
MEETING, AS A MORE  
EXPERIENCED MOTHER  
WITH A DOWN SYNDROME  
CHILD.

OH, I SEE.  
IF MORIKO  
IS FEELING  
OKAY,  
I'LL COME  
BY!

YES, I WILL  
CALL YOU  
AGAIN!  
THANK YOU!

THERE ARE  
A LOT OF  
CHILDREN THAT  
ARE DOING  
THEIR UTTER  
BEST, SO WE  
AS PARENTS  
CAN'T BE SITTING  
STILL AS WELL!

SO THE FACT  
THAT SHE MADE  
IT ALL THE WAY  
TO THIS POINT,  
MUST MEAN THAT  
SHE'S VERY  
STRONG, AND  
WOULDN'T GIVE  
UP THAT  
EASILY!

ABOUT 80  
PERCENT OF  
BABIES WHO  
TEST POSITIVE  
ON AN AMNIO-  
CENTESIS DIE  
A NATURAL DEATH  
BEFORE THEY'RE  
EVEN BORN.



I'M GOING  
TO A BABY  
GYMNASIATICS  
MEETING TO  
HAVE HER  
INCREASE HER  
MUSCLE  
TENSION.



THE SECOND  
TIME A SENIOR  
MOTHER OF  
A DOWN  
CHILD  
CHEERS  
ME UP.



WELFARE CENTER

MY GIRL  
SEEMS TO  
LOVE IT,  
SO I'M  
GETTING  
REALLY  
INTO IT.

HOW DOES  
THE  
MASSAGE  
WORK  
OUT,  
MOM?

AND SHE'S  
GOTTEN A LOT  
BETTER AT  
SUPPORTING  
HERSELF ON  
HER WRISTS.

UHH...



REALLY?

WE  
SHOULD  
TEACH HER  
SOME  
EXERCISES  
SOON, DON'T  
YOU THINK?

SHE'S  
MOVING  
THOSE LEGS  
A LOT!  
VERY  
GOOD!



AHA,

NORIKO'S  
GOTTEN  
QUITE A BIT  
STRONGER,  
HASN'T SHE?

NO, NO,  
THAT'S  
VERY  
GOOD!



SHE EVEN  
KICKS HER  
BLANKET AWAY  
WHILE SHE'S  
SLEEPING.



SO I  
DON'T KNOW  
IF I SHOULD  
BE HAPPY  
ABOUT IT  
OR NOT...





LAST TIME,

I THINK I SAW YOU HERE AS WELL.



HIS NAME IS HIROKI OKURA.



SO, HE WAS BORN IN JANUARY? THEN HE'LL BE IN ONE CLASS HIGHER THAN MY GIRL.

HER NAME IS NORIKO ARACHI. NICE TO MEET YOU.



I KNOW THAT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT,

I KNOW THAT I SHOULD STOP WORRYING, STAND UP STRAIGHT AND FACE THE FUTURE...



I ENVY YOU FOR THAT, EVEN IF SHE IS ONLY THREE MONTHS...

YOU SEEM TO BE A VERY POSITIVE MOTHER...



IT'S SO TIRING TO ME TO EVEN JUST COME HERE...

BUT MY BODY JUST WON'T COME ALONG.



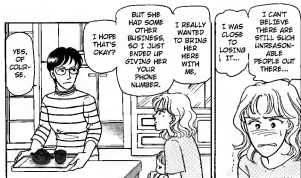
SO THAT'S WHY I ENDED UP COMING HERE AT SUCH A LATE TIME.

BECAUSE I THOUGHT OUR SITUATIONS WERE A LITTLE BIT SIMILAR, I ENDED UP TALKING TO HER ALL THIS TIME.

WHEN I ASKED HER ABOUT HER PROBLEMS, SHE TOLD ME HER PARENTS-IN-LAW WERE PUSHING HER IN SUBTLE WAYS TOWARDS A DIVORCE.

THAT WOMAN WAS THE YOUNG WIFE OF SOME FAMOUS CONTRACTOR LIVING IN M. CITY.

YAMADA



\*NORMALIZATION IS THE IDEAL WHERE OLD AND HANDICAPPED PEOPLE ARE ACCEPTED AND CARED FOR IN SOCIETY.



HOW  
ARE  
YOU  
DOING?

IS YOUR  
MOTHER-IN-  
LAW STILL  
BLAMING YOU  
LIKE BEFORE?

AND SHE  
COMPLETELY  
IGNORED OUR  
SHRINE VISIT  
FOR THE BABY,  
SO AT LEAST  
SHE CAN'T  
SURPRISE ME  
ANYMORE WITH  
HER ATTITUDE.

BUT NOW,  
BECAUSE OF  
NORIKO'S  
HEALTH  
CONDITION,  
SHE DIDN'T EVEN  
CONGRATULATE  
ME FOR THE  
BIRTH.



WHEN SHE  
HEARD THE  
NEWS I WAS  
PREGNANT, SHE  
WAS SO HAPPY  
AND EVEN WENT  
OUT OF HER WAY  
TO BUY  
SHOES FOR THE  
NEW BABY.



I WISHED  
THEY WOULD  
HAVE BEEN A  
LITTLE BIT  
MORE  
CONSIDERATE...  
THEY KNOW  
HOW OLD I AM...

I KNEW  
WHAT THEY  
WERE THINKING  
WITHOUT THEM  
SAYING IT, BUT  
STILL...

WE GOT  
TOGETHER  
WITH THE  
FAMILY  
FOR  
OBON  
FESTIVAL.\*

BECAUSE  
TWO  
YEARS  
AGO MY  
HUSBAND'S  
GRAND-  
MOTHER  
DIED,

\*NATIONAL  
HOLIDAY TO  
HONOR THE  
SPIRITS OF  
THE DEAD

IT WAS  
CLEAR  
THAT THEY  
BLAMED  
ME.



OR LET'S  
HOPE THAT  
IS THE CASE.  
AT LEAST...

SO SHE  
CAN STILL  
HAVE  
A FEW MORE  
KIDS...

SHE'S  
STILL  
YOUNG.



WAITING  
IN THE BATH-  
ROOM UNTIL  
IT'S OVER.

I JUST  
COULDN'T  
BEAR TO  
STAND...  
SO I HAD  
DAD TAKE  
ME HOME.

THE CHILD WE WAITED  
SIX YEARS FOR...  
WHAT A PITY FOR KAZUYA...

OUR DAUGHTERS HAVE  
NO PROBLEMS AT ALL  
BEARING CHILDREN THOUGH...



AND  
KAZUYA'S  
BEING  
SAND-  
WICHED  
IN  
BETWEEN  
IT ALL.

WE'RE  
NATURALLY  
BEING  
DRIVEN  
AWAY FROM  
KAZUYA'S  
FAMILY.



AND HOW  
SHE CAN  
NEVER FORGIVE  
ME FOR BEING  
BIRTH TO A  
HANDICAPPED  
CHILD...

SHE MUST  
BE STIVING  
AT HOW  
PETTIPLE THIS  
IS FOR  
MORTKO AND  
FOR HER  
SON.

THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH FOR  
THE  
SUPPORT!

TEN YEARS  
OLDER THAN  
ME, LIKE A  
NEW OLDER  
SISTER.



SHE HAS  
BEEN THE  
MOTHER OF A  
DOWN CHILD  
FOR 12  
YEARS...



IF YOU HAVE  
ANYTHING  
TO COMPLAIN  
ABOUT, YOU  
CAN ALWAYS  
COME TO  
ME!



SHE'S  
JUST  
BEING  
HONEST.

BUT DON'T  
PUT THE  
BURDEN  
ON YOUR  
HUSBAND.  
YOU'LL LOSE  
YOUR DEAREST  
ALLY...

IT MUST  
BE A SAD  
AND  
DIFFICULT  
SITUATION  
FOR YOU...





SEEING THE  
SMILING  
FACE OF  
THIS SIXTH  
GRADE  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL BOY,  
GASLINELY  
LOOKING  
HAPPY...

IT REALLY  
TOUCHED  
MY  
HEART.

OH,  
THAT'S  
VERY  
NICE!

VERY  
NICE!



HE NOTICED  
THOSE DETAILS FROM  
SEEING MY BABY ONLY  
ONE TIME...

YES,

THE  
SALVE  
I PUT  
ON IT  
WORKED  
VERY  
WELL.



WON'T YOU  
MARRY MY  
LITTLE GIRL  
WHEN  
YOU GROW  
UP?

RESERVE-  
VE...?

ALREADY

KAZUMI,  
CAN'T I  
RESERVE  
YUTA FOR  
MY  
DAUGHTER?



NO!!  
WE CAN'T  
MARRY HER  
TO YUTA!

...



I SAID  
THAT  
WITHOUT  
THINKING,  
YUTA'S MOM  
COULDN'T  
STOP  
LAUGHING.

HEHE  
...



AND I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT  
THAT WAS  
STUPID...

JUST  
KIDDING  
...

BUT I FINALLY  
GET WHY DADS ARE  
SO PROTECTIVE  
ABOUT THEIR  
DAUGHTERS.



NORIKO  
LOVES  
TAKING A  
BATH WITH  
DADDY.

SHE MUST  
BE TIRED  
FROM ALL  
THE VISITS  
WE DID  
TODAY!

DON'T YOU  
WANA PLAY  
WITH  
DADDY?

HEY,  
DON'T  
FALL  
ASLEEP  
HERE!



WE  
SAID  
THIS  
JOKING-  
LY...

LET'S  
GO FOR  
A TWIN  
WHILE  
WE'RE  
AT IT.



MAYBE  
NEXT TIME,  
YOU'LL  
BE PREGNANT  
JUST LIKE  
THAT.  
YOU  
NEVER  
KNOW.

IF YOU'D  
LIKE, WE  
CAN ALWAYS  
TRY AN  
IN VITRO  
FERTILI-  
ZATION.

SHOULD I TAKE  
FERTILIZATION  
TREATMENT AGAIN?  
OR NO... WE CAN'T  
COMBINE THAT WITH  
NORIKO  
...



I REALLY  
THINK A  
SECOND  
CHILD  
WOULD BE  
NICE.  
...  
FOR THE  
SAKE  
OF  
NORIKO

NORIKO  
IS SO  
ADORABLE.

ADORABLE  
WITHOUT  
ANY CONDITIONS.

EVEN SO,  
THEN WHY...



BUT EVEN SO...  
TALKING ABOUT  
DREAMS THAT CAN  
NEVER COME TRUE...

MADE ME A  
LITTLE BIT  
SAD...



NORIKO JUST HAS A  
BIT OF A RUNNY  
NOSE, SO SHE'S OKAY.  
YUKI ON THE OTHER  
HAND HAS A FEVER  
OF 101 DEGREES.

A COLD  
COULD BE  
LIFE-  
THREATENING  
FOR NORIKO,  
SO WE CAN'T  
HAVE YUKI  
TAKE CARE OF  
HER NOW...

EH...?



AT LONG  
LAST,  
I REACHED  
MY LIMIT.

AT THE  
END OF  
SEPTEMBER,  
WHEN THE  
WEATHER  
HAD SUDDENLY  
TURNED  
COLD.





TODAY IS THE ONLY DAY THAT I CAN'T TAKE A DAY OFF, SO THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU...

AND DAD HAS A MEETING WITH THE DENTIST ASSOCIATION, RIGHT?

ARE YOU TELLING ME TO ASK SOMEONE ELSE?



I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE HOME.

THEY'RE COUNTING ON ME TO HELP OUT, YOU SEE...



IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF?

HELPING OUT WITH THE DEBBANA EXHIBITION...



IF I KNEW ANOTHER SOLUTION, I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.

PLEASE!



HELLO?

ARE YOU REALLY THAT DESPERATE?



KAZUYA ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE IT...

WE CAN ALWAYS ASK YUTA'S MOM, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME YOU HAVE TO GO OUT TO WORK.



OKAY, BYE.

I'M REALLY SORRY, BUT THANKS.

ALL RIGHT.

I GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...



IT'S JUST THAT THIS IS COMING SO SUDDENLY!

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO DO IT.



WHAA...

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED YLITA'S MOM...

THANK YOU...

SHE BROUGHT UP FOUR KIDS, SO LET'S TRUST HER WITH NORIKO FOR TODAY.

YOU REALLY NEED A BREAK.



I'M GOING TO MOM'S PLACE TO GIVE HER THE KEY.



HOLDING NORIKO IN MY ARMS, WHO WAS GETTING A LITTLE BIT UPSET ABOUT HER STUFFY NOSE.

AND IF SHE DOES, I HOPE IT DOESN'T GET B.P.

I JUST HOPE SHE DOESN'T CATCH MY COLD.



...~~~~~

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE



LET'S JUST LISTEN TO EVERYTHING SHE SAYS.

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE STIRRING ABOUT...

WITH A FEVER LIKE THIS...



I'M COMING IN!  
ARE YOU IN HERE?

KNOCK  
KNOCK

IT SEEMED LIKE I DOZED OFF AGAIN.



THANK  
YOU  
SO  
MUCH...



IT LOOKED  
LIKE NORIKO  
HAD DRANK HER  
MILK, AND WAS  
FAST ASLEEP.



THAT I  
CAN SEE  
HER AS  
NORIKO'S  
GRAND-  
MOTHER.



IT'S THE  
FIRST  
TIME...



I THINK  
SAORI'S YUTO  
WAS BIGGER  
THAN THIS  
AFTER ONLY ONE  
MONTH.



IS SHE  
REALLY  
FOUR  
MONTHS  
OLD?

THIS  
CHILD IS  
SO SMALL  
I COULD  
CRY.

MAYBE IT WAS  
BECAUSE MY ABILITY  
TO THINK MIGHT  
HAVE BEEN  
CLOUDED BY THE  
FEVER...



DOES SHE  
REALLY  
HAVE THE  
DOWN  
SYNDROME  
?



TO SEE  
HOW  
FAR  
SHE'S  
COME...

EVEN THOUGH  
IT'S AT THE  
SPEED OF A  
TURTLE, SHE'S  
DOING HER  
UTTER BEST  
TO GROW.



BUT...



YES,  
SHE  
DOES.

MAYBE IT'S  
BECAUSE BEHIND  
THOSE BLATANT  
WORDS, I COULD  
STILL FEEL THE  
LOVE SHE FEELS  
FOR HER GRANDCHILD.

BUT HER TEARS  
SURE GOT  
THROUGH TO ME.



PLEASE  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THIS.

BUT  
NORIKO  
ISN'T.

PEOPLE LIKE ME,  
KAZUYA OR  
YOU MIGHT BE  
DESPAIRING  
ABOUT THE  
FACT THAT  
SHE HAS  
DOWN.





THAT'S  
NOT  
WHAT  
I MEAN...



IT WOULD BE  
WEIRD FOR A CHILD  
THAT ISN'T EVEN  
CONSCIOUS OF HER  
SURROUNDINGS TO  
BE DESPAIRING.



HOW ABOUT  
YOU STOP  
LOOKING AT  
SOCIETY, BUT  
TAKE A LOOK  
AT NORIKO  
HERSELF!

IF YOU'RE  
GOING  
TO CRY  
FOR  
NORIKO,



WE  
DECIDED  
TO  
STOP  
GRIEVING  
ABOUT  
IT.



THE REASON  
WHY PEOPLE  
FEEL SORRY  
FOR  
CHILDREN  
WITH DOWN  
SYNDROME  
IS ONLY  
THAT  
THEY LOOK  
AT IT FROM  
THE NARROW  
VIEWPOINT  
OF A HEALTHY  
PERSON!

THAT'S  
WHY...



...SHE'S  
A  
PITIFUL  
BEING!

PLEASE  
DON'T BE ONE  
OF THE PEOPLE  
THAT TEACH HER  
THAT FROM A  
HEALTHY PERSON'S  
SENSE OF  
WORTH...



SINCE THE  
MOMENT  
NORIKO WAS  
BORN, WE  
KNEW SHE  
HAD DOWN  
SYNDROME.

BUT PLEASE,  
FOR THIS  
CHILD THAT'S  
GOING TO  
LIVE IN THIS  
WORLD  
DOMINATED  
BY HEALTHY  
PEOPLE,



I BED  
YOU...



WHEN  
THIS  
CHILD  
BECOMES  
CONSCIOUS  
OF  
THE  
WORLD,

I WANT YOU  
TOO TO  
MAKE HER  
FEEL GLAD  
SHE WAS  
BORN!



YOU...  
WITHOUT EVEN  
KNOWING  
HOW I THINK  
ABOUT IT...

LET'S KEEP  
THESE  
POINTLESS  
ARGUMENTS  
FOR LATER,  
AND GET YOU  
IN BED!

I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
COMING  
HERE TO  
LISTEN TO  
YOUR  
LECTURES!



...  
I'LL  
GO TO  
SLEEP  
THEN



GEEZ...  
DON'T THINK  
I CAN  
ACCEPT ANY  
OF THIS  
THAT  
EASILY.

KEEPING ME  
SO WORRIED  
THAT I CAN'T  
EVEN SLEEP  
AT NIGHT  
SOMETIMES,  
AND THEN  
SUCH A  
LECTURE...



SO GO  
TO  
BED  
AL-  
READY!!

IF NORIKO  
CATCHES  
YOUR GOLD,  
KATUYA'S  
GOING TO  
GOLD ME  
FOR IT!

BUT  
IT  
WASN'T  
WITH  
SUCH  
A LOUD  
VOICE.

I DID  
HEAR NORIKO  
CRY NOW  
AND THEN.

IT SEEMED  
LIKE THE  
MEDICINE  
HELPED...  
I FELL  
ASLEEP  
RIGHT  
AWAY.



I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT  
TO  
SAY...

SHE  
EVEN  
MADE  
THIS  
DISH  
FOR  
US!



I SAID  
SOME  
THINGS  
TO HER  
THAT I  
SHOULDN'T  
HAVE SAID.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
...

ISN'T THAT A MOST  
NORMAL THING TO  
PRAY FOR?!

NOT ONLY DID  
YOU COMPLETELY  
IGNORE WHAT SHE  
DID,

I HOPE  
I DIDN'T  
HURT  
HER  
FEELINGS  
...



SO HER BITTERNESS  
MAYBE WASN'T  
JUST HER WANTING  
TO BULLY ME...

BUT YOU EVEN  
MADE HER FEEL  
LIKE A COLD-  
HEARTED WITCH!  
SHE FELT REALLY  
DOWN ABOUT  
THAT!

DON'T  
HURT  
MOM EVEN  
MORE, OKAY?

SHE EVEN WENT ALL THE  
WAY TO SANKIHO SHRINE  
TO PRAY FOR THE HEALTH  
OF YOUR BABY!

IT'S ALSO YOUR FAULT  
KAZUYA! HAVE YOU EVER  
THOUGHT ABOUT HOW  
MOM FEELS ABOUT  
THIS?







CAME THE  
DAY THE  
WHOLE  
ADACHI  
FAMILY  
GATHERED.



YEAH,  
SURE...  
I'M  
SORRY.

YUKI, CAN  
YOU TAKE  
A LOOK THERE?  
KAZUYA SEEMS  
TO BE IN A  
PINCH.

WE'RE JUST  
WAITING  
FOR THE FOOD  
TO ARRIVE  
ANYWAY...



MAYBE  
SHE'S  
HUNGRY...  
OR SHE  
WANTS  
HER  
MOMMY...

WHY IS  
SHE  
CRYING?



A SENIOR AT  
WORK'S SECOND  
CHILD ALSO  
HAS DOWN  
SYNDROME...

AND IS IN  
THE HOSPITAL  
NOW ALONG  
WITH HIS WIFE  
WHO IS STAYING  
BY HIS SIDE.  
HIS OWN HANDS  
ARE FULL WITH  
THE OLDER CHILD  
AS WELL...

I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
MY  
BROTHER-  
IN-LAW  
...



HOW NICE IT  
WOULD BE IF  
IT WERE JUST  
HER HEART...

WELL, FOR  
OUR GIRL  
WE'RE JUST  
SEEING HOW  
IT GOES  
WITH  
MEDICINE...

HAWT  
POOR  
BABY...

YEAH, SHE'S  
GOT A LITTLE  
HOLE IN  
HER HEART.

IS SHE  
SICK?

LET  
US  
TAKE  
A LOOK  
AT THE  
PAST  
MONTH.

A LOT HAS  
HAPPENED AT  
THE JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL  
WHERE THE  
YOUNG CULPRIT  
USED TO  
GO.

IT'S BEEN  
ONE MONTH  
NOW SINCE  
THE MURDER  
INCIDENT  
WHERE A  
YOUNG GIRL  
GOT KILLED.

IF HE  
MISSES  
IT, HE'LL  
BE ANGRY  
ABOUT IT  
ALL DAY.

I'M  
SORRY,  
BUT HE  
REALLY  
LOVES  
IT!

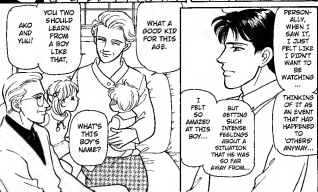
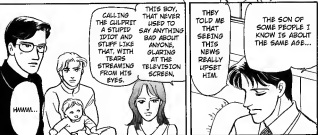
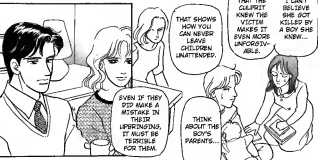
SHEEP!  
PIKO'S GREAT  
ADVENTURE  
IS ABOUT  
TO START!

ALL  
RIGHT,  
ALL  
RIGHT.

PUT IT  
ON  
CHANNEL  
TWELVE!!

IT REALLY  
LEFT A BAD  
AFTER-  
TASTE.

OH MY,  
HAS IT BEEN  
A MONTH  
ALREADY SINCE  
THAT  
INCIDENT?





AND  
HE HAS  
DOWN  
SYNDRO-  
ME.

HIS  
NAME  
IS  
YUTA  
YAMA-  
DA.



EVERY TIME  
I HEAR  
THIS STORY,  
I CAN'T  
KEEP FROM  
THINKING...

AND I ALSO  
HEARD HE WAS  
SO HAPPY WHEN  
HE SAW THAT  
NORIKO'S RASH  
HAD HEALED,  
AS IF IT WERE  
HIS OWN RASH  
THAT HAD  
HEALED...

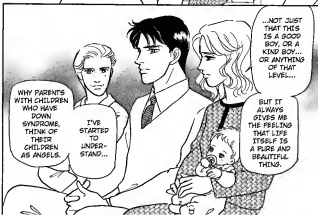


WHY PARENTS  
WITH CHILDREN  
WHO HAVE  
DOWN  
SYNDROME,  
THINK OF  
THEIR  
CHILDREN  
AS ANGELS.

I'VE  
STARTED  
TO  
UNDER-  
STAND...

...NOT JUST  
THAT THIS  
IS A GOOD  
BOY, OR A  
KIND BOY...  
OR ANYTHING  
OF THAT  
LEVEL...

BUT IT  
ALWAYS  
GIVES ME  
THE FEELING  
THAT LIFE  
ITSELF IS  
A PURE AND  
BEAUTIFUL  
THING.





BUT IF  
INSTEAD WE  
GAVE BIRTH  
TO A CHILD  
AS PURE AS  
AN ANGEL,

WON'T  
FEEL ANY  
REGRET,  
RAISING  
HER AS  
MY CHILD.

I  
ALSO  
...



FOR  
NORIKO  
AS  
WELL...



SINCE  
WE'RE  
ALL  
TOGETHER  
TODAY,

I  
THOUGHT  
IT WAS  
A GOOD  
OPPOR-  
TUNITY,

I JUST  
WANT YOU  
TO, WHEN  
NORIKO'S  
LAUGHING,  
SHARE  
HER  
LAUGH.

BUT I DON'T  
WANT YOU  
ALL TO  
FEEL SORRY  
FOR HER.

AT THE  
MOMENT...  
NORIKO IS  
OFTEN  
FIGHTING FOR  
HER LIFE.

SO  
PLEASE,  
I'M  
ASKING  
YOU!

IF WE'RE  
EVER IN A  
PINCH, I  
WOULD LOVE  
IT IF THE  
FAMILY COULD  
LEND US A  
HAND.

BOWING  
OUR HEAD  
TOGETHER  
IN FRONT  
OF EVERYONE,

I THOUGHT  
OF WHAT A GREAT  
HUSBAND I HAVE.

PLEASE!

WOMANLY Q

EVERYONE GOT QUIET,  
CREATING A COMPLETE  
SILENCE.

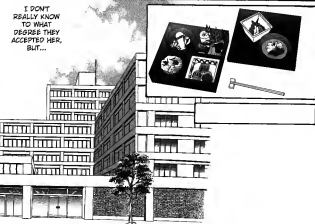
THESE FEW  
WORDS  
FROM FATHER  
BROUGHT SUCH  
A SUDDEN RELIEF  
TO US.

OKAY.

YOU  
CAN  
COUNT  
ON US.



I DON'T REALLY KNOW TO WHAT DEGREE THEY ACCEPTED HER, BUT...



IT'S COLD  
OUTSIDE, SO  
MAKE SURE  
YOU WATCH  
OUT!  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN IN THE  
NEW YEAR!

THERE'S MORE  
ENERGY IN HER  
CRYING VOICE  
THAN BEFORE!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
WISHED ON  
WHITE CHRISTMAS

HEY HEY,  
HE DIDN'T  
DO ANYTHING  
PAINFUL  
TODAY, DID  
HE?

WE HAVE  
TO GO  
CONTINUE  
THIS  
PROCESS  
STEP BY  
STEP.

AREN'T YOU  
HAPPY? SOON  
YOU PROBABLY  
WON'T HAVE  
TO DRINK  
YOUR  
MEDICINE  
ANYMORE!

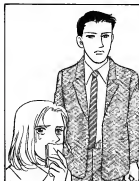
I COULDN'T  
BELIEVE IT  
WHEN HE SAID  
THE HOLE IN  
HER HEART WILL  
PROBABLY CLOSE  
BY ITSELF.

SET DOWN  
FOR A  
SECOND...

ARE  
YOU  
OKAY?

WE SHOULD  
LET DADDY  
KNOW AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE!

♪



I FELT LIKE  
I WAS LOOKING  
AT MYSELF FROM  
ONE YEAR AGO...

BUT DO WE  
HAVE ENOUGH  
COURAGE TO  
GIVE BIRTH  
TO IT  
WITHOUT  
TAKING  
THE TEST...

DO WE  
EVEN  
WANT TO  
KNOW THE  
RESULTS  
TO A  
TEST  
LIKE  
THIS...?

AND NOW  
THEY TELL  
US ABOUT  
THIS CHANCE  
OF ONE  
IN  
THIRTY...

FINALLY  
GETTING  
PREGNANT  
AFTER FIVE  
YEARS OF  
FERTILITY  
TREATMENT.





END OF CHAPTER 3

NON-CHAN NO TENOHIRA  
CHAPTER 4

# のんちゃんの 手のひら

〈第4話〉





ADDY...



NORIKO,  
WHO  
STARTED  
RUNNING  
AFTER HER  
DAD EVERY  
TIME HE  
LEAVES  
FOR WORK,



HER  
RECORD  
NUMBER  
OF STEPS  
BEING  
ONLY  
ABOUT  
A DOZEN  
...



BUT WHEN  
SHE SAID  
HER "VERSION  
OF DADDY FOR  
THE FIRST  
TIME,

HE COULDN'T  
CONTAIN HIS  
HAPPINESS!



ADDY...!



ADDY!



CAN YOU TRY ONE MORE TIME? DAD-DY.

DID YOU JUST SAY DADDY, NORIKO?

NORIKO, WHO COULD UNDERSTAND MOST THINGS WE TOLD HER,

BUT STILL HAD TROUBLE PRODUCING SOUNDS HERSELF. IT WAS THE FALL WHEN SHE WAS TWO YEARS AND FIVE MONTHS.



HE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY HAPPY THAT HER SECOND WORD, AFTER LEARNING TO SAY 'MOMMY' WAS DADDY!



YES!

THAT'S SO GOOD OF YOU!

YOU'VE GOTTEN SO SMART, NORIKO!

BEFORE WE KNEW IT, THIS TURNED INTO THEIR LITTLE RITUAL EVERY TIME BEFORE HE WENT TO WORK.



MASTER RACCOON FROM FIST MOUNTAIN DRINKING YUMMY MILK...

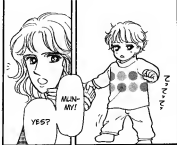
♪ ♪

♪ ♪



...AS HE EVEN STAYED TO SING AS MANY AS THREE OF THE HANDPLAY SONGS THAT NORIKO LOVES SO MUCH.



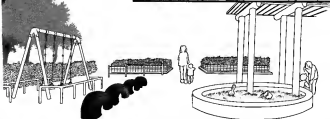




NON-CHAN  
IS GROWING  
UP.

STEP  
BY  
STEP,

WITHOUT  
ANY  
HURRY,





HE'S SO RESTLESS AND ACTIVE THAT I JUST CAN'T KEEP HIM OUT OF MY SIGHT.

I WOULD LOVE IT IF HE WOULD JUST GO TO SLEEP SOME-TIMES.



HOW IS AKITO?

SHE HAD CAUGHT A COLD, SO WE STAYED HOME FOR A WHILE.



HELLO, NON-CHAN! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!



MS. NISHISAWA IS A MOTHER OF TWO YOUNG CHILDREN. WE BECAME FRIENDS AS WE OFTEN MET WHEN TAKING OUR CHILD TO THE PARK TO PLAY.

THIS ONE SEEMS TO TAKE SEVERAL TIMES THE EFFORT.

HIS OLDER SISTER USED TO BE VERY CALM AND QUIET.



HE'S TEN MONTHS YOUNGER THAN NORIKO, BUT BECAUSE HIS BIRTHDAY IS IN MARCH,

A DOBBY!

MOM! DOBBY!

AKITO IS NOW ONE YEAR AND NINE MONTHS.

THEY WILL BE IN THE SAME SCHOOL GRADE.



DON'T GO OUT-SIDE THE PARK!

HEY, WATCH OUT!

I SEE...



AKITO IS  
ALREADY VERY  
GOOD AT  
SPEAKING...

I  
SEE...

AAAH...

AAH...



DO YOU  
LIKE MY  
DOGGY?

HELLO!

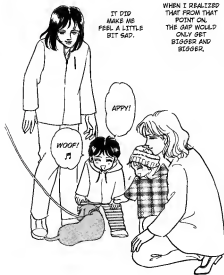
YEAH!

IT DID  
MAKE ME  
FEEL A LITTLE  
BIT SAD.

WHEN I REALIZED  
THAT FROM THAT  
POINT ON,  
THE GAP WOULD  
ONLY GET  
BIGGER AND  
BIGGER,

BUT  
THAT  
DAY, I  
COULDN'T  
HELP BUT  
NOTICE...

AT THE TIME  
WE WERE TAKING  
WALKS TOGETHER  
WITH THE BABY  
CARTS, I DIDN'T  
NOTICE THE BIG  
DIFFERENCE IN  
THEIR SPEED  
OF DEVELOPMENT.



APPY!

WOOF!



ISN'T  
THAT  
CUTE?

SHE SAYS  
THE DOGGY'S  
NAME IS  
HAPPY.

APPY!



AS HER  
PARENT, I DON'T  
REALLY  
CARE,

BUT,  
ONCE  
NORIKO  
GETS  
AWARE  
OF MORE  
AND MORE  
THINGS,

SHE WILL  
DISCOVER  
THAT OTHER  
CHILDREN CAN  
EASILY GET  
OVER THE  
HURDLES  
THAT SHE HAS  
GREAT TROUBLE  
WITH.

I'M JUST  
WONDERING  
IF THAT WON'T  
MAKE HER FEEL  
SAD FOR BRING  
NOT GOOD  
ENOUGH...



THAT  
IS...

...NOTHING BUT  
A CONCEPT THAT'S  
THE RESULT OF  
BEING BROUGHT  
UP IN THE MIDDLE  
OF AN ATMOSPHERE  
OF COMPETITION.

LIFE DOESN'T  
HAVE TO BE  
A RACE,  
DOES IT  
NORIKO?

TRYING  
YOUR VERY  
BEST TO  
GET OVER  
YOUR  
OWN  
HURDLES  
IS MORE  
THAN  
ENOUGH.

DID  
YOU  
GET  
ON?



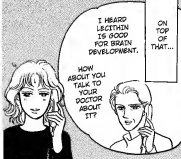
HORSEY  
IS GOING  
TO  
RUN!

ARE  
YOU  
READY?

YEAH!

THAT'S  
A REALLY  
GOOD  
REPLY!!

AS HER  
DAD, THAT'S  
ALL WELL AND  
GOOD, BUT...



I HEARD  
LEGITHIN  
IS GOOD  
FOR BRAIN  
DEVELOPMENT.

ON  
TOP  
OF  
THAT...

HOW  
ABOUT YOU  
TALK TO  
YOUR  
DOCTOR  
ABOUT  
IT?

IT'S IMPORTANT  
HOW THE WORLD  
SEES HER!  
YOU MUST TEACH  
HER AS MUCH AS  
POSSIBLE IN  
HER SITUATION!



IMAGINE  
WHAT IT'S  
LIKE FOR  
ME, GETTING  
ALL THIS  
UNREASON-  
ABLE  
ADVICE FROM  
PEOPLE...

YOU DIDN'T HAVE  
TO BUY US THIS  
ENGLISH EDUCATION  
DVD SET, MOTHER!



IT MUST  
BE NECESSARY  
TO BE ABLE  
TO STOP CARING  
ABOUT ALL  
THAT...



HEY!  
HEY!

IF YOU  
MOVE  
AROUND  
LIKE THAT,  
YOU'LL  
FALL OFF  
YOU  
KNOW!



AH  
WELL...

BOTH  
NORIKO  
AND KAZUYA  
LOOK LIKE  
THEY'RE HAVING  
FUN.

AREN'T  
YOU A  
LUCKY  
ONE,  
NON-  
CHAN!

I WOULD  
ALSO LIKE  
TO RIDE  
ON THE  
HORSEY!



CAN'T REFUSE HIS DAUGHTER A SINGLE BIT.

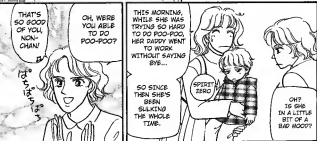
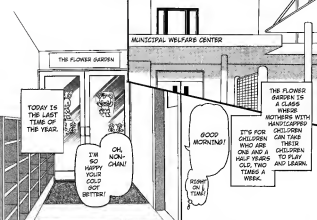
OMMA PAKKA PAKKA!

HE REALLY...



I WONDER  
IF NON-CHAN  
FINISHED  
EATING...





THE CHILDREN ARE CATEGORIZED ACCORDING TO THEIR LEVEL, INTO THE VIOLET CLASS, THE PANDALION CLASS AND THE SUNFLOWER CLASS.

CHILDREN WITH ALL KINDS OF HANDICAPS ARE WELCOMED HERE, AND CAN LEARN THINGS ACCORDING TO THEIR CURRENT LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING.

MS. UCHI-UKI?

AND SHE'S GOTTEN VERY GOOD AT WALKING AS WELL! LET'S DO OUR BEST, NON-CHAN!

SO IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR HER TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO HER DEARER.

COME IN!

HIROKI OKURA, THE FELLOW CHILD WITH DOWN THAT HAD BEEN IN THE SAME CLASSES ALL THE WAY SINCE I JOINED THE BABY GYMNASTICS A LONG TIME AGO.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HIRO?

SO HE DOZED OFF IN THE CAR, AND WHEN I WOKE HIM UP, HE BECAME UPSET AGAIN...

LAST NIGHT HE HAD BEEN CRYING A LOT...

GOOD MORNING!

GOOD MORNING!



AAH  
AAAH...

MAYBE HE'S FEELING A BIT LONELY BECAUSE HE'S MOMMY HAS TO GIVE SOME ATTENTION TO THE OTHER BABY?

BUT IN HERE, YOU HAVE YOUR MOMMY ALL FOR YOURSELF, SO YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF!



FORGETTING HER OWN BAD MOOD, NORIKO DID HER VERY BEST TO CALM HIM DOWN.

SHE MUST LIKE HIROKI A LOT.



THANK YOU, NON-CHAN.

IN THE VIOLET CLASS, THERE ARE MANY CHILDREN WHO CAN'T TALK OR WALK YET.



FIRST, LET'S SING THE HANDPLAY SONG!

ONE FINGER, ONE FINGER, NOW WE HAVE A MOUNTAIN!

TWO FINGERS, TWO FINGERS, NOW WE HAVE A PAIR OF GLASSES!

THREE FINGERS, THREE FINGERS,

NOW WE HAVE A JELLY-FISH...

THE DRUMMING HIROKI AS WELL....



SHE'S EVEN ABLE TO DO IT NOW EVEN IF I DON'T GUIDE HER HANDS.

SO IN HERE, NORIKO CAN BE ONE OF THE GENIUS STUDENTS.

THAT'S MOSTLY THANKS TO HER DAD, THOUGH.

OOH!

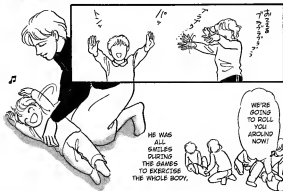
AAAH!

ENDING FULL THROTTLE



DURING THE HOT WATER BATH TO IMPROVE BLOOD FLOW,

HIS MOOD BRIGHTENED UP AGAIN!



HE WAS ALL SMILES DURING THE GAMES TO EXERCISE THE WHOLE BODY.



EVERYONE WITH THEIR OWN STRONG AND WEAK POINTS...

THERE WERE ALSO KIDS WHO DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE IT.



SO NORIKO WAS HAPPY AS WELL.

AFTER LUNCH,  
THE MOMS AND  
CHILDREN GOT  
SEPARATED.

SOME FREE  
TIME FOR  
THE MOMS.

MRS.  
OKURA,

THERE'S A  
MAGIC MIRROR  
FOR THE MOMS  
WHO WANT TO  
KEEP AN EYE  
ON HOW THEIR  
CHILD IS  
DOING, BUT...

THEY TOLD US  
IT'S BETTER  
FOR US TO  
RELAX AND LEAVE  
IT TO THE  
TEACHERS AT  
THIS TIME.

ALL YOU  
CAN DO  
IS WATCH.  
YOU CAN'T  
GO IN NOW  
ANYWAY.

YES,  
BUT,

HIROKI  
SEEMS  
TO BE  
CRYING,  
SO...

OH,  
BUT...

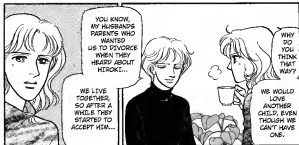
HOW  
DOES A  
CUP OF  
TEA SOUND?

MAYBE WE  
SHOULDN'T HAVE  
DECIDED TO GIVE  
BIRTH TO HIS  
YOUNGER  
BROTHER  
NAOKI...

I  
SOME-  
TIMES  
CAN'T  
HELP BUT  
THINK  
THAT.

...

HIROKI'S  
MOM  
LOOKS  
SO  
TIRED.



YOU KNOW,  
MY HUSBAND'S PARENTS WHO  
WANTED  
US TO DIVORCE  
WHEN THEY  
HEARD ABOUT  
HIROKI...

WE LIVE  
TOGETHER,  
SO AFTER A  
WHILE THEY  
STARTED TO  
ACCEPT HIM...

WHY  
DO  
YOU  
THINK  
THAT  
WAY?

WE WOULD  
LOVE  
ANOTHER  
CHILD, EVEN  
THOUGH WE  
CAN'T HAVE  
ONE.



SO I GOT  
THE FEELING  
HIS GROWTH  
HAS STOPPED  
BECAUSE  
OF IT...

IT SEEMS  
LIKE HE  
NEVER  
WANTS TO  
BE  
SEPARATED  
FROM ME...

I'M  
SURE  
HIROKI  
IS  
FEELING  
THAT AS  
WELL.

BUT NOW,  
SINCE NAOKI  
GOT BORN,  
ALL HOPES  
AND LOVE  
SEEMS TO  
HAVE MOVED  
ON TO THE  
NEW BABY.



I KNOW  
THAT WHEN  
I THINK  
ABOUT IT.

YEAH,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...

ONCE THE NEW  
YEAR STARTS,  
HE'LL BE THREE  
YEARS OLD, AND  
HE'S ONLY JUST  
LEARNED TO  
STAND UP USING  
A SUPPORT.  
HE  
DOESN'T  
SAY  
ANYTHING  
YET, AND  
HIS FACIAL  
EXPRESSIONS  
LACK  
ENERGY...

WHAT  
...?!



SO THIS  
PERSON  
ALSO  
FEELS  
IMPATIENT...

I SEE...

DIDN'T  
IT SAD  
FOR HIM  
IF HE  
FELT  
RUSHED?

HIROKI  
JUST NEEDS  
TO LEARN  
ALL  
THOSE  
THINGS  
AT HIS  
OWN  
UNIQUE  
PACE.



I'M NOT THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CRITICIZING OTHERS THOUGH.

I JUST GOT TOLD THE SAME THING BY MY HUSBAND, WHEN I WAS COMPARING HER WITH ANOTHER CHILD THE OTHER DAY...

BRINGING UP A CHILD DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A RACE, HE TOLD ME.

HEHE ...

HE DOESN'T REALIZE THAT IT WILL BE A PROBLEM IF SHE KNOWS SHE CAN GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING SIMPLY BY CRYING.

HE'S ACCEPTING ALL OF THE MOST NAUGHTY BEHAVIOUR THAT NORDIKO'S THROWING AT HIM ...

I DON'T THINK IT'S INCORRECT TO SAY THAT HE'S JUST THE NORMAL FOOLISH FATHER.

WHAT A GREAT DADDY.



DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

IN THE HORSE GAME AND THE ROLLING GAME, HIROKI WAS SHOWING A VERY HAPPY SMILE, WASN'T HE?

I ACTUALLY THINK THAT IT WOULD BE MORE OF A WORRY IF HE WASN'T ACTING LIKE THIS.

THAT'S JUST THE PROOF THAT HE LOVES HIS MOMMY!

ISN'T IT ONE OF THE MOST NORMAL THINGS FOR AN OLDER CHILD TO BE JEALOUS OF A NEW BABY?



PEOPLE CAN SURE CHANGE ...

AND HE WAS THE ONE THAT PRESSED ME FOR AN AMNIOCENTESIS BEFORE THE BIRTH.

おははは





THAT'S  
JUST MY  
FEELING  
...

I'M  
SURE YOU'LL  
ALL JUST  
GROW MORE  
TOWARDS  
EACH OTHER.

AS  
BROTHERS,  
AS PARENT  
AND  
CHILD,  
AS FRIENDS  
...



WHOA...  
IT'S  
COLD...

EVEN THOUGH  
SHE CAN'T USE  
HER KNEES VERY  
WELL YET,

NORDKO IS  
MOTIVATED TO  
DO HER BEST!

♪



IF WE WALK  
THE PARK  
ROAD  
TOGETHER,  
I'LL HOLD IN  
HAND.

LIKE CUTE  
LITTLE BIRDS.

♪

♪



DO  
YOUR  
BEST,  
NON-  
CHAN!

EH? DO YOU  
WANT TO  
WALK  
YOURSELF?



LET'S GO  
HOME QUICK,  
OR YOU'LL  
CATCH A COLD  
AGAIN!

AAHHH!!



SOMETHING  
POSS?

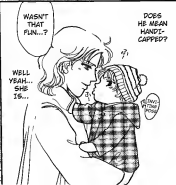
EH? WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

AAH-  
AAAH...

OH, YOU  
WANT ME  
TO SING?









REALLY...?

FIRST SEEING HIM INTERACT WITH MORIKO IN A FUN WAY, AND THEN BEING ASKED THAT QUESTION SO SUDDENLY,

IT FELT LIKE...

A BUCKET OF COLD WATER THROWN OVER MY HEART THAT HAD JUST BEEN MADE COMFORTABLY WARM...



THAT'S TRUE...

HE DIDN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ANYTHING BAD BY ASKING WHETHER SHE'S HANDICAPPED, YOU KNOW...



LAST SUMMER HE CAME TO OUR CLINIC FOR A BAD TOOTH, YOU KNOW.

WASN'T HE THE BOY FROM THE FAMILY MATSUIWA FROM THE FOURTH FLOOR?

I THINK THIS IS MANY TIMES BETTER!

RATHER THAN BEING WHISPERED ABOUT FROM A DISTANCE, OR BEING IGNORED,



LET'S SAY THAT NEXT TIME.

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST BOASTED AT HIM THAT SHE'S GOT DOWN SYNDROME.

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE BOASTING ABOUT IT...



HE'S SO MUCH LIKE HIS FATHER...

BUT I GUESS HE'S A REALLY GOOD BOY ON THE INSIDE.

HE SEEMED TO BE A LITTLE BIT OF A CHEEKY REBEL-TYPE KID,



BECAUSE  
OF THAT,  
SHE'S  
GOTTEN  
VERY GOOD  
AT EATING  
FOOD  
TOO!

PRACTISING  
HER BITE,  
BRUSHING  
TEETH, AND  
EXERCISING  
HER MOUTH  
MUSCLES,  
AS EXPECTED  
FROM A PRO!

DADDY  
HELPED  
A LOT  
TOO,  
YOU  
KNOW?

A+ FOR  
DADDY  
AS WELL!



A+ FOR  
BOTH OF  
YOU  
REALLY!

YOU AND  
MOM SURE  
DID YOUR  
BEST  
THIS PAST  
YEAR!

AND NOW  
SHE CAN  
EVEN  
STAND UP  
AND WALK  
ON HER  
OWN!

LAST YEAR  
AROUND  
THIS TIME  
SHE WAS  
STILL  
THROWING  
UP AND  
PEESING  
IN BED,



I UNDERSTAND THAT  
HIS JOB IS VERY  
BUSY...

BUT HE'S LEAVING  
EVERYTHING ABOUT THE  
KIDS COMPLETELY TO  
ME AND HIS MOM.

IT WOULD BE  
NICE IF MY  
HUSBAND WOULD  
BE THERE FOR  
HIROKI JUST A  
LITTLE BIT MORE...



AT HOME  
AND AT THE  
FLOWER  
GARDEN, ROOM  
TEMPERATURE  
IS WARM AND  
COMFORTABLE.

HOW CUTE!

YEAH!



IF I THINK  
ABOUT MRS.  
OKURA'S  
SITUATION,  
I REALIZE THAT  
I'M VERY LUCKY.

WHAT  
DO  
WE  
SAY  
THEN?

OR WE  
WON'T  
BE ABLE  
TO GO  
TO MRS.  
YAMADA'S  
HOUSE  
ANYMORE.

DON'T  
CATCH  
ANY MORE  
COLDS,  
OKAY?



WAAH!!

LET'S  
SIT  
DOWN  
AND BE  
CALM,  
OKAY?



STOP  
THAT,  
NON-  
CHAN.

WAAH!  
WAAH!

WAAH!

BUT THAT  
DOESN'T  
MEAN THAT  
THE  
BREEZE  
OUTSIDE  
IS ALWAYS  
THAT  
GENTLE.



AS YOU  
CAN  
SEE,  
SHE'S  
NOT TOO  
HAPPY.

SHE WANTS TO WALK  
AND TOUCH ALL THE  
THINGS SHE SEES  
IN THE SHOP, SO  
SHE DOESN'T WANT  
TO STAY IN THE  
CART.



THEIR  
GAZE  
HURTS  
...

MRS.  
NISHE-  
SANA!

WHAT'S  
THE  
MATTER,  
NON-  
CHAN?



LOOK AT  
WHAT A  
GOOD BOY  
AKITO IS  
BEING.

DOESN'T  
THAT  
LOOK  
NICE?



NON-  
CHAN?



MAYBE  
SHE'S  
JUST  
A LITTLE  
BIT TOO  
MOTI-  
VATED?

MOMMY  
PRAISES  
YOU SO MUCH  
FOR BEING  
ABLE TO  
WALK SO  
WELL,  
DOESN'T  
SHE?



FEELING  
A BIT  
FROID



OR  
NOT?

NON-CHAN?  
DO YOU  
THINK YOU  
CAN SIT LIKE  
THAT AS WELL?

CAN YOU?



EVEN  
THOUGH  
NON-CHAN  
IS USUALLY  
SUCH A  
GOOD GIRL!

THERE  
MUST HAVE  
BEEN  
SOMETHING  
SHE WANTED  
TO SAY!



AS EXPECTED  
FROM A  
MOTHER OF  
TWO CHILDREN

THANK  
YOU  
VERY  
MUCH  
...

I WAS  
ALMOST  
ABOUT TO  
GIVE UP  
AND GO  
HOME.



...

TSK  
...



WHO  
GAVE  
HER  
THIS...

NOT BEFORE  
WE HAVE  
IT  
SCANNED!

AAH...



HUH?

HOW  
ABOUT  
THAT?



MY RELIEF  
WAS  
SHORT-  
LIVED!!



WHEN DID  
SHE...!?

CHOC-  
O-LATE  
BAR?

お菓子  
ですか?



PEOPLE'S  
WARM  
FEELINGS  
GO STRAIGHT  
TO MY  
HEART.

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!



THIS ROUND  
AND SOFT  
BALLOON...



SHE PLAYED  
WITH IT  
UNTIL SHE  
WAS BORED,  
BUT...

♪



WHEN  
SHE  
WOKE  
UP,  
SHE  
HAD A  
BURNING  
FEVER.

NON-  
CHAN?

NON-  
CHAN?

ON THE  
29TH,  
SO  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
NEW  
YEAR...

LET'S GO  
TO THE  
DOCTOR  
AND GET  
YOU SOME  
MEDICINE.

AAH...

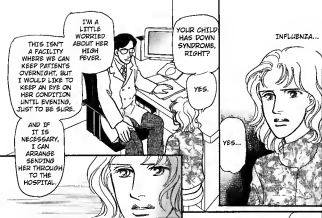
DOES  
IT  
HURT  
SOME-  
WHERE  
?

EMERGENCY CENTER

I  
THINK  
IT'S  
INFLU-  
ENZA.  
  
WAS  
SHE  
VACCI-  
NATED  
AGAINST  
THAT?

WAS IT BECAUSE  
YOU WEREN'T  
FEELING WELL  
THAT YOU'VE  
BEEN IN THAT  
FOUL MOOD  
ALL DAY?

DIDN'T  
YOU  
RECOVER  
FROM  
YOUR  
COLD  
COMPLETELY  
YET?



THIS ISN'T A FACILITY WHERE WE CAN KEEP PATIENTS OVERNIGHT, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER CONDITION UNTIL EVENING, JUST TO BE SURE.

AND IF IT IS NECESSARY, I CAN ARRANGE SENDING HER THROUGH TO THE HOSPITAL...

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT HER HIGH FEVER.

YOUR CHILD HAS DOWN SYNDROME, RIGHT?

YES.

YES...

INFLUENZA...



SHOULD I HAVE TAKEN HER WITH ME ON ALL THOSE ERRANDS?

WAS I BEING CARELESS?

IT'S AT 103 DEGREES NOW...

HER FEVER JUST ROSE AGAIN...

IS HER SITUATION THAT BAD...?



BUT WE HAD TO BRING NORIKO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM, AND SHE'S EVEN GETTING AN IV NOW, SO...

I REALLY WANTED TO COME HELP WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE NEW YEAR PARTY...

I'M SORRY.

I'M SO SORRY, NON-CHAN!

I'M SORRY!



MORE  
IMPORTANTLY  
...



WE'LL  
MANAGE.

I'M SORRY  
FOR NOT  
BEING  
ABLE TO  
HELP...



I CAN ALWAYS  
ASK KAZUYA  
OR HIS FATHER  
TO DO THE  
SHOPPING.  
YOU SHOULD  
STAY WITH  
NORIKO.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
THE  
PARTY,



...I'M  
SORRY.

IT WOULD  
BE BETTER  
IF YOU  
DIDN'T TAKE  
HER OUTSIDE  
WITH YOU  
THAT MUCH?

DON'T  
YOU  
THINK,



EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'S A  
WEAK  
CHILD...

PLEASE  
DON'T  
MAKE  
PEOPLE  
WORRY  
THAT  
MUCH...

I HAD TO  
HEAR IT  
FROM SOMEONE  
ELSE, WHO  
TOLD ME IT  
MUST BE  
TOUGH FOR  
YOU...

I HEARD  
SHE WAS  
MAKING A  
FUSS AT  
THE SUPER-  
MARKET?



IT FELT  
LIKE ICY  
WIND  
BLOWING  
ON MY  
HEART...



EVEN  
THOUGH  
HER  
VOICE  
SOUNDED  
KIND...



BECAUSE  
ISN'T IT  
SAD FOR  
HER IF YOU  
HAVE TO KEEP  
HER IN  
BED LIKE  
THAT ALL  
THE TIME?  
DON'T  
YOU  
THINK?



NORTKO AND  
MR. JUST  
THE TWO  
OF US IN  
THE BACK OF  
THE  
DIAGNOSTIC  
ROOM...



...NON-  
NY...



WHAT  
IS IT,  
NON-  
CHAN?  
NONNY'S  
RIGHT  
HERE.

TAKE  
CARE OF  
HER,  
OKAY?



SO LET'S  
GO HOME  
SOON,  
OKAY?

THEY  
GAVE  
YOU  
SOME  
GOOD  
MEDI-  
CINE,



I'M SORRY,  
THIS WAS ALL  
MOMMY'S  
FAULT.



SQUEEZING  
THE  
BURNING  
HOT  
PALM  
OF HER  
SMALL  
HAND...



AND RATHER  
THAN BEING  
WORRIED  
ABOUT HER,  
SHE'S WORRIED  
ABOUT  
APPEARANCES...?

SHE  
HAS  
SUCH A  
HIGH  
FEVER...



MY  
TEARS  
WOULDN'T  
STOP...

END OF CHAPTER 4



JOUR COMICS

# のんちゃんの手ひら①

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